

The Nation.

NEW YORK, THURSDAY, APRIL 29, 1875.

The Week.

DURING the past week the rumors of Cabinet changes have taken a very definite shape, and it is understood that Mr. Williams is to retire, while it seems that the only hesitation felt in Mr. Delano's case is that he, being now "under fire," ought to be retained in office until he may voluntarily leave it. The military theory as to tenure of office, in its perfected form, seems to be something like this: Any officer who knows that he has been guilty of misconduct, fraud, or speculation, and finds his conscience oppressed by the fact, may, if he pleases, resign, and in that case he will not be prevented, and the usual complimentary testimonials will be exchanged and published; second, if any officer steadily sets his face against misconduct, fraud, and speculation in office, and thereby creates much hostility among the supporters of the Administration, he also may resign (and if he does not wish to go, he will be asked to resign), with the usual complimentary testimonials. If, however, any officer is accused of improper conduct by the press, he will be entitled to testimonials at once, without the question of his resignation being raised, and he will remain in office until the wicked editors cease their attacks. Mr. Delano has been suspected of the grossest kinds of corruption, and charges have been openly brought in the newspapers. But far from any enquiry being ordered, or even an investigation being demanded, a formal testimonial was at once "tendered," not by people who knew anything about the facts, but, of all persons in the world, by a number of "Heads of Bureaus" in the Department of the Interior, subordinates dependent on Mr. Delano's favor for their daily support, and who solemnly, each in turn, vouched for the business of the office having been conducted in a perfectly regular manner by their chief.

A vigorous attempt to get up another revolution in Louisiana has been made, but without success. By the terms of the Wheeler Compromise, as it is called, the Republicans agreed that the House of Representatives might be reconstructed so as to give the Democrats the majority of which they had been deprived by the illegal action of the troops; and, on the other hand, the Democrats agreed not to impeach Kellogg for any past offences. There was no promise given beyond this on either side as to the House of Representatives, and accordingly that body, exercising its normal and regular prerogative, began to enquire into the qualifications of some of the other members. There was no reason why this should not be done, any more than there was why Kellogg should not be impeached for future offences. Indeed, the excitement got up over it in some of the Republican papers shows a curious state of mind with regard to the functions of State governments. If the Louisiana government is ever to be carried on at all, it must be by the usual means—by legislation, by seating and unseating members, by executive acts and proclamations, and by judicial decrees. If the "Wheeler Compromise" is to be taken to mean that the government of the State is to remain to the end of time paralyzed, without power of action in any direction, the quarrel might better have been left to the banditti and the troops to settle between them. But the fact is that the notion that the population of the State are a wild set of murderous savages seems to have taken such a vigorous hold of the minds of a certain number of people at the North, that not even the most sensible, civilized, orderly behavior on the part of the savages themselves can force it out of their heads.

To show that we do not exaggerate in what we say, we quote from the Boston *Journal* of April 26, which is made very sad by the contemplation of the behavior of the Conservatives:

"In fact, when one considers this development of Conservative bad faith, he is apt to be reminded of General Sheridan's epithet of 'banditti' as one not so far out of the way as many enemies of the frank, blunt soldier had supposed. We are yet loth to believe that the majority of the Conservatives of Louisiana approve this treachery of their representatives in the legislature, but still they cannot evade its responsibility. The men who have got command of the party there are thoroughly untrustworthy. That fact has been one of the great sources of trouble all through the Reconstruction period. It is time that the North fully understood it. It is on this account, in part, that we have advocated the withdrawal of all Federal interference from Louisiana, so far as the protection of life and property would allow, in order that the ex-rebel leaders might show their true character to the whole country."

The best comment on this is the fact that the Legislature has now adjourned, and the "banditti" returned to their homes without shedding a drop of blood. We hope the *Journal* will return to the subject, if it is not too melancholy, next week.

Judge Blatchford's decision in the Dana suit does not announce any new or important principle of law, and turns mainly on a technical question as to the jurisdiction of the court which subpoenaed Mr. Dana. But the case is important for all that, as illustrating the extraordinary attitude of the Government to the press. When we reflect that Washington is the capital of the country, the centre of the Administration, the headquarters of a powerful Government, one of whose main functions is the administration of justice, and then remember that an arrest of one editor has been procured in it contrary to all law and precedent, at the request of an intimate friend of the head of the Administration, and that another hostile editor has been summoned there in a case of which he protests that he knows nothing, we cannot but regard every attempt to take members of the press to Washington to try them as, to say the least, suspicious; and we may add that we believe the decision of Judge Blatchford, in so far as it discountenances the notion that a petty local court ought to have power to send for witnesses all over the country, is salutary. There is something so preposterous about the idea of erecting the tribunals of a little "geographical expression" like the District of Columbia into tribunals having powers beyond those of the States even which framed the Union itself, that we feel confident it ought to be frowned upon by the courts whenever they can find an opportunity to do it.

A piece of news going the rounds of the papers, relating to the anticipation by Spain of the payment due on account of the *Virginius* indemnity, has attracted a good deal of attention; at the same time that another fact, showing the honorable intentions of the United States as regards Spain, has attracted but little. The news to which we refer is the condemnation, in a United States Court, of the *Edgar Stewart*, a piratical vessel intended and, we believe, used by the Cubans for filibustering attacks. At about the time of the capture of the *Virginius* the case of this vessel attracted a good deal of notice. Whether she would ever have been seized if the *Virginius* had not tried to land an expedition seems open to much question; the evidence against her could hardly have been stronger than that which satisfied Mr. Williams that the *Virginius* had no right to carry the American flag. At any rate, the arrest and condemnation of the vessel are a good proof of the *bona fides* of the Administration, and, taken in connection with the very successful negotiations with regard to the indemnity, are, we hope, an earnest of a new state of feeling and action on Cuban-American affairs. It is surprising to reflect how distinctly even

the average politician's mind has been relieved within the last few years of that terrible anxiety which used to burden it as to the Anglo-Irish difficulties, Fenianism, and so on. Since the Government determined to treat Fenians not as a nation struggling against six hundred years of wrong, but as deluded adventurers led by political desperadoes in a campaign of petty larceny and murder, Fenianism has passed for exactly what it in reality is. It is impossible to hope so much with regard to Cuba, for Spain is not England, and Cuba is a far worse-governed and more hopeless province than Ireland has been for many a long year; still, there is no doubt that such proceedings as those which have led to the condemnation of the *Edgar Stewart* will do much both for the peace and the honor of the country.

The Centennial Exhibition stockholders have been called together to hear the report of their directors; and it would seem that, with proper exertions, there is no reason why the exhibition should not be a success. Many foreign governments have signified their intention of being properly represented; there have been in round numbers a million and a half of receipts and a million of expenditures, leaving half a million and more in the treasury; and, with three and a half millions of additional subscriptions, the managers expect to accomplish everything necessary. It is obvious that the exhibition must be mainly one of natural products of the soil and manufacturing industry, and it will therefore depend upon trade subscriptions for money. There could not be a better way of testing the popular interest in the exhibition than this, for, if it succeeds, nothing more is desired; while if it fails, the absurdity of an appropriation from an impoverished Treasury is proved to a demonstration. This meeting of the stockholders, by the way, shows that the position we took a year ago in these columns—that the concern was essentially like any other large corporation, with a fluctuating body of stockholders and a small number of directors—was correct, and that the extraordinary notion put forward by one of our correspondents, that, the corporation once formed, any one who had a hand in forming it became *functus officio*, was totally erroneous. In its present condition, we wish the enterprise all success, and see no reason whatever why, with proper assistance from those most interested, it should not meet with all it deserves.

The next important centennial, following the celebrations at Lexington and Concord, will be observed at Charlotte, a village in Mecklenburg County, North Carolina, on the 20th of May. At this place, it is alleged, in 1775, there was passed a series of resolutions which expressed sympathy with the sufferers at Lexington, and also formally declared the inhabitants of the county to be absolved from all further allegiance to the mother country. The genuineness of these resolutions has been disputed by historians, and when they first appeared in print, in 1819, Thomas Jefferson declared them to be forgeries. Having been accepted, however, by vote of the Legislature in 1831, and also by several local historians, they are now generally received and credited throughout the State. It is quite probable that resolutions of a somewhat similar, though perhaps less decided, character were really passed some time in May, 1775. Following the Mecklenburg celebration will come the hundredth anniversary of the battle of Bunker Hill, on the 17th of June, extensive preparations for the celebration of which are now making at Boston, both Bunker Hill and Breed's Hill being now within this city's limits, since the annexation of the former city of Charlestown. Additional evidence that the various centennial celebrations are destined to renew a good portion of the fraternal feeling which formerly existed between the Northern and Southern sections of the country is furnished in the fact that a militia company from Norfolk, Virginia, and also the mayor of that city, will visit Boston and take part in the exercises of the 17th of June. As might have been expected, some of our social agitators, probably believing that all this centennial "sweetness" should have its full share of "light,"

are trying to make capital for their pet theories. The woman suffragists, for instance, are endeavoring to persuade the women taxpayers of Lexington and Concord to refuse to pay their proportion of the money voted by the towns for the anniversary celebrations at these places, on the ground that by so doing they would be following the example set them by their forefathers in resisting "taxation without representation." Mrs. Lucy Stone, at a meeting of the Middlesex County Association at Melrose, declared that "if she were an inhabitant of Concord she would let her house be sold over her head, and her clothes off her back, and be hung by the neck, before she would pay a cent of it."

A genuine mining excitement has broken out in the old and quiet town of Newbury, in the northeastern corner of Massachusetts, consequent upon the recent discovery of silver ore in that place. There is no doubt that both silver and lead have been found in "paying" quantities, but there are grave doubts as to the length and depth of the veins, and the continuance of a percentage of metal sufficient to pay the expenses of regular mining. These uncertain elements of the problem will have to be determined by actual experiment. In the meantime, the speculative fever has set in, the price of land has been run up, companies have been formed, and sales of mining privileges have been announced at even a million dollars—a price which must strike the old settlers dumb. The fever may be yet further increased by the reported discovery of gold, last Saturday, in Georgetown, immediately adjoining Newbury, this latter discovery being made by the man who first discovered the silver. Staid Newburyport is displaying specimens of silver-ore in its shop-windows, and the passer-by may read strange announcements concerning "Compton's Lode," "Devil's Run," etc. It is no new thing to discover silver, lead, copper, zinc, and even gold in Massachusetts, especially in the western part of the State, near the Connecticut Valley, but, heretofore, every attempt at mining has been followed by loss of the money invested, none of the metals being found in paying quantities. The accidental discovery of silver at Newbury was used as an argument to induce the Legislature to appropriate money for a thorough scientific survey of the State. Other arguments as good and better were urged, and there was no lack of them, but we regret to see that the petition was defeated by a tie-vote in the House. It was asserted that forty years would be required for fifteen parties, of five persons each, to complete the survey of the State. Had this been true, and not, as we believe, a gross exaggeration, it would still have been no excuse for postponing a work to which the United States lends the gratuitous service of the Coast Survey, and which must sooner or later be undertaken and carried through. Considering the value of her example in this matter to other States, Massachusetts should have reflected that *noblesse oblige*.

It is just five years since the readers of the *Nation* first made the acquaintance of Capt. Niles G. Parker, then as now of South Carolina, and from 1868 to 1872 the Treasurer of that unhappy State. In May, 1870, we were assured by a well-known religious weekly in this city and by a well-known philanthropist that Parker had "restored the State to solvency," and had "brought order out of chaos, and had made South Carolina the first of the seceded States to pay the full interest on her debt." In August of the same year, it transpired that more than half a million of the State bonds had gone to protest in 1868, and that neither principal nor interest had since been paid. In May, 1871, Governor Scott assured the Taxpayers' Convention that "nothing had been done involving the credit of the State not strictly authorized by law." In November following, the same Governor, the treasury being empty, declared Parker guilty of fraudulent issues, and in December a legislative committee advised the impeachment of both Governor and Treasurer for the crime which the former sought to shoulder upon the latter. By a vote of two to one, however, the House refused to impeach, and both

offenders went out of office when their term had expired, unwhipt of justice. On Wednesday week, it gives us pleasure to record, Parker was arrested at Columbia, on the complaint of the Commissioners of the Sinking Fund (Gov. Chamberlain at their head), on the charge of embezzling money from that fund to the amount of \$23,100 while Treasurer; and having been required to give bail in twice that amount, failed to do so, and was sent to jail. The next day a fresh suit was begun against him by the Attorney-General for a fraud estimated to have cost the State \$225,000, and committed in the years 1869, 1870, 1871. It appears that while he was engaged in "bringing order out of chaos," by paying coupons on valid bonds, he "put aside \$250,000 of such coupons uncanceled, and in their place as vouchers put coupons which he cut off from the conversion bonds in his office, which, according to their dates, must have matured at this time." Nearly all of these uncanceled coupons have been funded at the Treasury during the present year. Altogether, Parker must procure bail in excess of \$300,000, which is of course impossible for him, and if he ever comes to trial, there seems to be every probability that he will get his deserts. A career which began in Haverhill, Massachusetts, as proprietor of an unsuccessful and disreputable restaurant and bar, and which, temporarily disguised by service in the army, recovered its true aspect when Parker went into business in Charleston, failed and paid thirty cents on the dollar, then went into politics, then went into the Treasury and began stealing, and lying to conceal his thefts, will find a fitting climax in the penitentiary. We ought to add that Governor Chamberlain's active prosecution of Parker gives us great satisfaction. They were both formerly colleagues with Scott on the Financial Board which appointed the State agent who killed the State credit in 1871, and the then Attorney-General naturally shared the odium which attached to the majority of the Board. His silence then will be atoned for by his action now.

The dinner given to Mr. Schurz on Tuesday, though not political in the strict sense of the word, had, from the speeches made at it, an important political bearing. The sentiment most strongly expressed in these, and perhaps best expressed in the remarks made by the presiding officer, Mr. Evarts, was the hope, and we may almost say the determination, of independent men that in the next Presidential election the country shall not be forced to choose "the least of two evils," and their profound indifference as to what party-name the candidate may bear, provided he be fit for the office. To quote from Mr. Evarts:

"There is a very great and increasing number of people in this country who believe that an elevation of American politics is a good thing. We would like to see some of the old competition in public life with which we have been familiar in the mother country, and of which we have known and read so much admiringly in our own, in which the prosperity of the contest depended upon the superiority of the successful combatant, and not upon a close calculation of which had the greatest defects."

To Mr. Schurz the dinner was more than the compliment such dinners usually are; for no one present could help seeing how genuine and sincere are the regrets of a large number of the best people in the country at his temporary retirement from public life, or wondering at the partisan folly which has driven him out of it.

With a continuance during the week of unseasonable weather, general trade has been quiet. The injury to the crops turns out to have been overestimated. In the markets, there has been little change in cotton, and that little a reduction in the price. In Wall Street, the week has been a quiet one; money continues abundant, and rates for loans have a declining tendency; the banks have now a surplus reserve of about \$11,500,000, and currency is still accumulating. Gold exports have at last begun: nearly \$2,000,000 gold coin have been exported during the week, and this not because Europe demands gold of us, but because there is little else to ship except gold and securities, and thus far Europe shows no disposition to take our securities. Mr. Bristow has called in \$5,000,000 more 5-20 bonds, which will add to the danger that we

may be obliged this summer to ship such an amount of gold as seriously to imperil the bank reserves next autumn. At the Stock Exchange, the demand for first-class investments has been almost without precedent. U. S. bonds have sold in currency higher than ever before. Good railroad bonds have gone up to figures which seem strange in a country where money is supposed to be worth more than at the money centres of Europe. It is almost impossible to get a good first-mortgage 7 per cent. railroad bond below 105, and some are quoted as high as 115. The next lower class of bonds range from 95 to 105, and railroad shares accounted good dividend investments are also feeling the effect of this investment demand. In speculative shares, the tendency continues upwards for those in any way connected with the Pacific railroads. Roads between this city and Chicago are, however, doing a poor business, both on account of the low rates and the meagre traffic, and their stocks have declined. The Union Pacific speculation overshadows all others, and the plausible exhibits put forth in the interest of the company are inducing many to buy its shares who looked upon them with contempt when selling for half their present price. The difficulty between the Union Pacific and the Panama has been settled; the latter gets enough in the shape of what may be called a royalty on the Pacific traffic to enable it, with its other business, to declare 20 to 24 per cent. annual dividends, and its shares have been up to 172, a rise of 27 per cent. There is now a practical monopoly established in the interest of the Pacific railroads on all trans-continental business, with no limit to its charges except such high rates as will stop business. The Pacific railroads by it add to their net income about \$6,500,000.

Just what Bismarck has been driving at in his exchange of notes with the Belgian Government it is not yet possible to guess with certainty. Was he really expecting that Government to restrict by new legislation the constitutional liberties of the country, or was he seeking to intimidate his Ultramontane enemies at home under pretence of giving no peace to their abettors in neighboring states? Or was his first note preliminary to picking a quarrel, with a view to the forcible annexation of Belgium, Luxembourg, and who knows what else? Whatever his motive, he succeeded in exciting apprehensions of war not only among lookers-on, both Gallic and non-Gallic, but in the minds of the German people. They knew that the Government had prohibited the exportation of horses from Germany for the equipment of the French cavalry and artillery. They saw in Belgium a possible, indeed the only remaining, highway for French armies into Germany. In the midst of these rumors the semi-official *Post* came out with a declaration that "war was in sight, though the cloud might yet be dispelled." Then the German imagination discovered a plot between France, Italy, and Austria against Germany, and at once "saw blood." The article in the *Post* was interpreted as Bismarck's intimation that he knew what was going on and would not be caught napping. Under the powerful impression made by this article throughout Europe, our Berlin correspondent writes (April 11):

"There is no doubt that the Government are, or at least have been, entertaining very serious apprehensions. I know from an absolutely trustworthy source that Moltke said to one of the most prominent members of the Landtag that, about two weeks ago, it looked for a whole night as if war was sure to come; the Government expected every moment to get a despatch saying that France celebrated the completion of the reorganization of her army by pouring her regiments through Belgium into Germany. Moreover, you know that the Emperor has been compelled by his physicians to give up his intended visit to Italy. It was, however, at once announced that the Crown-Prince would go in his stead. That was really intended, for the court-jeweller received the orders for the gold boxes, etc., which princes are in the habit of presenting to distinguished persons on such occasions. Now these orders have been countermanded. This, although not known to the public—the press has as yet not so much as hinted at the possibility of the Crown-Prince's not going to Italy—is a fact I can vouch for. That, of course, does not preclude the possibility that, in a few days, the order may be renewed. If the Prince should go after all, that might, perhaps, be taken as a sure sign that the storm has happily blown over."

THE GOVERNOR'S POWER OF REMOVAL.

UNQUESTIONABLY the two chief causes which thwart the political will of the American people at the present time are, first, the incapacity or malfeasance of those in office, and, second, the controlling power of certain combinations, generally known as caucuses and rings, in determining selections for office. These causes move in opposite directions, and the majority of men are too apt to estimate them singly, as though either were the only evil to be encountered in redressing our political grievances. He whose attention is called to the administration of public affairs sees clearly enough how incompetently and corruptly public affairs are managed; and he who turns his attention to the election or appointment of administrative officers encounters immediately a powerful influence behind the public will, which, in nine cases out of ten, annuls the good that the better part of the community strives to accomplish. Looking at the subject from these different points of view, it is not extraordinary that there are different sets of men honestly coming to opposite conclusions. One set can see that efficient and honest government requires that an unknown number of officers be promptly evicted, and the only instrumentality by which prompt eviction can be secured is the discretion of some single mind, which must ordinarily be that of the executive. Prompt eviction for incompetency or dishonesty in office is desirable, and this all men will admit, but no inconsiderable portion of the community have learned, in our modern experience, that removals from office take place more rarely for these causes than for any other. If removal for neglect of duty, or even for malfeasance, had been the invariable rules with our National and State executives, the power of removal would now be the most popular power that could be vested in either Governor or President.

But when another portion of the community examine the question from their point of view, they see with equal clearness that removal from office is ordinarily nothing more than an abuse of power, the purpose ordinarily being to turn out the experienced merely to make way for the inexperienced, and the motive being no better than to get rid of one's opponents and make places for one's friends. The first class hope for improvement in change; the second are suspicious of change, believing that no higher grade of morality will be secured, and a less experienced set of hands be employed upon the official work. In other words, they believe the change will merely be adding incapacity to dishonesty.

But a third class, who are accustomed to couple with the power of removal the power of appointment, will be found to argue strenuously that the Executive can best select administrative officers, and that it is highly desirable to bring responsibility for administrative affairs home to somebody who can practically be held accountable, by being kept in or turned out as he behaves or misbehaves himself, for the selection of his appointees. If we could stop with this reasoning, the way for approaching excellence in our governmental affairs would be plain, and a constitutional amendment or two would do the business. But unhappily a fourth set of men are ready with arguments to show that this hope is utterly delusive. They assert that such selections do not, and in the present condition of our political affairs cannot be secured; and they can point in almost any direction and not go far from finding an illustration to confirm their assertion.

The truth is that no intelligent person can rely upon any one of these sets of views. Each is in the main sound so far as it goes, but none embraces the whole field of facts which the reformer should survey. Where robberies in office are going on, such as the last four years have disclosed in this city—such as the past winter has added to the official history of the State, there should be an instantaneous method of removal, while we refer punishment to the more tardy processes of the courts. Furthermore, our experience in this State is a conclusive demonstration that removal by impeachment or by indictment, or by the Governor and Senate, or by the Governor on a formal investigation of some local magistrate, is neither instantaneous nor valuable, nor ordinarily effective; but, on the con-

trary, in nearly every case where it was tried proved to be a vexation or a farce. That is to say, the only really effective means yet discovered for getting a scoundrel out of an office is to give to somebody official authority to put him out.

But when we go to the other side of the field of facts we find that while it is indisputable that public officers are selected by political conventions, which in turn are selected or managed by a class whom decent citizens least trust and most abhor, nevertheless the appointing power is also selected, and the appointments largely managed, by the same set of men who control the nominations of the elective officers. It is indeed a difficult and alarming condition of the problem that so few of our chief officials, whom we popularly call "the appointing power," go into office by really popular selection, or possess a real moral freedom to do that which they know to be right. We have to deal with the inconvenient fact that a debased condition of politics has enabled a debased set of men to acquire power over the ordinary mayor or governor, and if not to secure from him all kinds of abject pledges, at least to do that which is almost as dangerous—viz., to lay him under what are called obligations of gratitude.

We have had so much of the good and the bad in our public experiences, that almost any one can prove his side of the case by what is called experience, if we allow him to take a fraction of the general experience instead of the whole. From these vicissitudes of public affairs the public have slowly gathered the idea that the best thing that remains for us is to clutch at any temporary good that comes in our way. At the present time we have a Governor who has singularly risen from being the leader of an unsuccessful party to obtaining the confidence, and in a very unusual degree, of the respectable men of all parties. It is needless to add that he has obtained this by his fearless warfare upon the worst members of his own party. At the same time we have spread before us the exposure and, indeed, the demonstration of a prolonged series of frauds and robberies which have well-nigh made the most important property of the State entirely valueless. The two things coming together have naturally enough suggested a proposition for giving to Governor Tilden what the governors of this State so long have been deprived of—an unlimited power of removal.

These two powers of appointment and removal are not necessarily united or interdependent, and no sound reason exists for inferring that if we cannot or should not entrust the Governor with the one, therefore we must withhold from him the other. Indeed, there are some reasons why the two should not be united in the same individual, for the latter has constantly been abused in this country, and the abuse has always grown out of the possession of the other power. In monarchical governments the two are vested in the executive; but in monarchical governments changes of the executive are comparatively rare, being measured by generations, and there will never be any great danger from an executive's removing his own appointees. The trouble with us has been that the executive has constantly found another man's appointees in his way, and that high party feeling and torpid public sentiment have allowed them to be gotten out of the way by the abuse of a salutary power. If public sentiment had been so high that removing an upright man from office merely to give the place to one of a different party would have been regarded as scandalous; if it had been so exacting that a Whig governor who removed a Democrat would have been required as a proof of his disinterestedness to appoint a Democrat to the same place, no constitutional change in this respect ever would have been made, and we should now, with substantial unanimity, be regarding the power of removal as one of the most valuable elements of popular government. It may be confessed that there is a seeming incongruity in keeping a ring to select improper officers and an executive to turn them out; but the incongruity is more seeming than real. The power of removal in the present condition of affairs means simply a limit to official vice. The error does not lie in removing rogues from office, but in allowing them to get there. And hitherto the great inducement for

rogues of a certain size to buy their way into office has been not the inadequate salaries which we generally attach to places of responsibility, but the certainty that he who gets there may remain, no matter what he chooses to do. The extraordinary system of official malfeasance which in the last thirty years has grown up in an industrious and well-meaning community that boasts of its right of self-government, is founded on a political system which provides easy means for putting a man into an office, and, during its term, leaves the community with no practical remedy for turning him out. Practically, we have been saying for twenty years to the gentlemen whom we are fond of calling "our public servants": "You may draw your salaries and do as little as you please. The duties of your office you may leave undone, and its powers you may pervert to enrich yourself and your accomplices. When your term expires, we may try to prevent your coming back again, but the chances are that at that time we shall be hopeless of getting any one better, and that your friends who sent you the first time will send you here a second, despite anything we can do. Should you chance to be indicted, you can easily delay the trial until your term expires, and then get yourself elected to a better place. In short, there is no accountability which an expert official has the slightest reason to fear."

Such being the rule by which we have lived for some years, the question really is whether we intend to adhere to it for ever. The distrust which evidently lingers in the minds of many who even advocate it, really belongs to the question of restoring the appointing power. As we have before shown, the two powers are not interdependent, and the latter question cannot now be decided. In a vitiated state of politics like the present, it may be that the best way to secure the purity of the executive will be to keep all patronage out of his hands. But, be that as it may, all that can be done this year or next will be to act upon the distinct subject of leaving the public business of the State in the unrestricted hands of whosoever happens to grasp it. It is unhappily true that we have been standing for a long time in the mire, and it is undeniable that we cannot wholly extricate ourselves by a single bound; but that seems hardly a good reason for refusing to lift one foot out of the mud and plant it upon solid ground.

A FIELD FOR "PUNCH" IN AMERICA.

SEVERAL years ago a discussion was carried on by some of our newspapers and magazines upon the subject of the non-success of humorous periodicals in this country. Although innumerable attempts had been made, it was stated, to establish permanently a publication of this kind, nevertheless the death-rate had steadily kept pace with the number of births. To cheap prints, filled with comic sketches whose coarse vulgarity bordered closely upon indecency—to more praiseworthy attempts to give expression only to the best forms of wit and genuine humor—to the many conceivable and sometimes brilliant varieties between these extremes—the same fate sooner or later was sure to come. Not a single case of real success could be pointed out. But that which greatly increased the natural aggravation attending this unbroken series of failures was the fact that during all this time the well-known London *Punch* steadily maintained a well-earned reputation and tantalizingly continued an undisputed success. Why had there been this persistent difference between the results of similar attempts in the two countries? If *Punch* could succeed in England, why should not a corresponding periodical also succeed in America?

Among the answers to this question was one to which we believe there was no reply at the time, and which was expressed somewhat in this wise: Throughout the various grades of English society the lines of demarcation are broad and pronounced to a degree which an American cannot easily understand. These existing differences are made still more decided in popular apprehension by the effects of tradition and education, so that the distance between an earl, for instance, and a chimney-sweep appears enormous and impassable, and when the one is represented as employing, either by accident

or design, the customary words or manner of the other, the incongruity is not only immediately but also keenly and ludicrously apparent. This illustration perhaps is an extreme one, but serves the better to indicate the fact. Now, from these social incongruities *Punch* obtains directly or indirectly a large amount of its best material—material which is shaped and ornamented in accordance with every sort of crude and delicate fancy. This kind of material, which in abundance and variety seems essential to the success of a humorous periodical, is almost entirely lacking in America. Here, where, according to a popular writer, a railway engineer in his good clothes may resemble a robust professor of geology, and is very likely to have his cloth cut by the professor's tailor, it is almost impossible to define class distinctions, and the highest and lowest classes are not far enough apart to give birth to any idea of incongruity when brought together. With us it is almost impossible to represent one class mimicking or parodying the ways and speech of another. Our sole effective illustration of incongruous relations between social extremes is produced by the juxtaposition of the imported servant-girl and her mistress, and this has been so long employed, over and over again, that, in common phrase, it is "used to death," and now has either lost all effect, or, if it retain any at all, is more likely, for special and well-known reasons, to excite anguish rather than mirth. Therefore (the inference followed from all these statements), being without the most necessary material for easily sustaining a humorous periodical, it was hardly possible that one could ever be made to succeed in this country.

We have not recalled the above discussion for the purpose of taking any part in it, nor shall we pretend to decide upon the validity of the premises from which is drawn the final conclusion. Our present purpose is to call attention to the fact that, granting to the above statements all the force which may fairly be claimed for them, there is nevertheless an extensive field for *Punch* in America—a field which may eventually be more profitably tilled than that which has been so long and so successfully worked in England. The moral profit of the undertaking, we are persuaded, would repay immediate investment, though for pecuniary profit it may be wise to wait a little longer.

When paterfamilias at breakfast-table recently read aloud from the morning paper that P. T. Barnum had been elected mayor of Bridgeport, the proceedings against coffee and omelet were arrested on the part of every member of the family circle long enough to allow the features to express the transient reception of an absurd idea, which took its departure in company with various brief and gentle exclamations. Between the traditional idea of the chief-magistrate of a city and the traditional idea of a showman, there is an incongruity so great that it is not possible to put the two together without exciting feeling of some kind—it may be contempt, or wonder, or mirth—but whatever it may be, it is of the same kind as that which results from the material out of which *Punch* fashions its social humors. Moreover, when we remember that the chief-magistrates of our cities are sometimes formally installed at the conclusion of an "inaugural procession," and then recall the character of the processions in which Mr. Barnum has hitherto borne a prominent part, we are confident that *Punch* can picture no greater incongruity when he puts together a nobleman and an organ-grinder, or represents the one attempting to perform the functions of the other. We say this, fully granting the possibility that Mr. Barnum as mayor may prove to be as good as, or even better than, the average holders of that office; for he is an exceptional showman, and holds certain exceptional relations to the city of Bridgeport. We mention his case as the most recent, rather than the best, illustration of what we are endeavoring to set forth—namely, the ludicrous incongruity between the function of many public offices and the character and attainments of the men who are frequently elected or appointed to fill them. What, again to illustrate, can be more utterly unlike than the functions exercised by a Methodist clergyman and the functions of an inspector of American consulates in foreign ports? We confess that our imagination completely fails in the effort to suggest the answers given by some of

our consuls to certain questions in the catechism, which must have been put to them by their official inspector upon his recent visit. The unlikeness of function in this case is fully equal to that exhibited in the case of a man said to have been elected to the English Parliament many years ago, who wrote (or could write) after his name "Prize Fighter and M.P." Of course we need not mention a recent parallel instance in our own politics, nor remind our readers of the absolute satire contained in the appointment of a Southern member of Congress, whose inimitable "*thar*" is the delight of the galleries, to a position upon the Committee on Public Education. But illustrations of our meaning are unfortunately so plentiful that every reader can readily supply them from his own immediate surroundings.

Apart from all theories of the origin of civilization, it is universally admitted that only the savage is capable of properly doing all things necessary to ensure the most perfect happiness possible to the state of society in which he lives. He only can be hunter, butcher, cook, arrow-maker, builder, legislator, priest, and root-digger rolled into one. All progress in civilization is necessarily attended with greater and still greater specialization of pursuits. It is almost impossible to-day for a man to be at the same time a butcher and an oculist, or for an artist to attempt to drive a pegging-machine. The skilled workman is he who knows how to do one thing, and does that one thing well. "Jack at all trades and master of none" was never truer than at the present time; but it will be truer to-morrow than it is to-day. This rule of fitness, the rule that training and natural faculty are demanded for whatever one may undertake to do, is becoming daily more imperative; and the rule should have no exception when applied to the holders of public office. From president to village alderman, the relation to function should be as precise, to say the least, as from blacksmith to entry-clerk in the various departments of a manufactory of sewing-machines. These trite facts are, of course, so perfectly familiar to all men of education, or of trained common sense, that their reiteration is in danger of becoming exceedingly wearisome; but we are obliged to remember that the average voter is not represented by the man of education or of trained common sense. The necessity of adaptation to any special trade or commercial pursuit is generally admitted, to a certain extent, even by the average unthinking voter; but the necessity of fitness for any public office he never seems to have taken into consideration. Any man is fit to hold and administer any office to which he can succeed in getting elected. Furthermore, we do not believe that any statement of facts can be made sufficiently forcible, or that any logic is sufficiently strong, to drive this unfortunate idea out of the mind of the ordinary voting citizen. Accustomed to regard an office as a prize or medal, to be gained very much in the same way as at a church fair the French clock is voted to the most popular clergyman, while the favorite doctor secures the piano, what wonder if a conception of the idea of official duties is obscured, or even never attained? No very peculiar fitness is needed to receive a gift. And therefore we find so often that in the thriving village, for instance, the favorite self-made manufacturer, who never read a line of history, is sent to Congress to help to make laws for a nation; while in city wards the most liberal giver of coal to the poor, or the contractor who employs the most workmen, or the keeper of the most popular saloon, takes the votes and the offices. It is evident, we think, to all who know something of the motives which guide the great majority of voters that the average American has no clear understanding, as yet, that there is any necessity for him to consider the question of fitness for required duties when he deposits his ballot for the man of his choice. To recur to our original illustration, it is certain that the majority of the people of Bridgeport do not recognize any incongruity between the functions of a showman and the functions of a chief-magistrate; yet even they, as we have already intimated, are probably much more excusable than many others whose actions might be here quoted, if necessary, in illustration.

Now, we fully believe that the most effective weapon with which

to awaken the needed public feeling and combat the evils to which the lack of it gives birth, is a plentiful use of vigorous and good-natured humor—employing the word in a generic sense, to include everything akin to itself, from genial wit to caricature and satire. The point of a joke will enter many a brain that seems impervious to the point of an argument; the keen edge of witticism will cut where the clearest fact is too blunt to prove effective; and ridicule will open the eyes where logic fails. Mr. John Morrissey well knew the kind of argument best suited to his audience when he recently tried to ridicule the character of the appointments of Mayor Wickham, but the weapon is a dangerous one for him and his class to attempt to handle. It could be wielded with tenfold effect in the hands of their opponents, as was well shown during the warfare against the Ring in this city; people who could not read could easily understand the ridicule of pictures, and Nast's caricatures were potent where facts and arguments had always failed.

Our subject, which has been hinted at rather than treated, is capable of extended applications. Especially do we believe that the field for *Punch* in America is very much broader than this particular portion of it which we have pointed out. But we have space at present for only one other suggestion: mortifying as it is at times to see an important public office filled by a man who is thoroughly unfit in every particular for the position to which he has been chosen, and disheartening as is the reflection that this spectacle is an outcome of republican institutions, nevertheless all defects of this kind are, after all, among the minor evils of our political system. The matters of deepest importance have not been mentioned in this article. In connection with these last there is plenty of downright earnest work to be done, more than enough to create deep seriousness in him who perceives something of its extent and difficulty. It is well, therefore, to keep in reserve a wholesome antidote against cynicism and the blues, and to recognize one enemy at least who can be better attacked with the weapons of *Punch* than with statistics or a syllogism.

ENGLAND.—THE WOMEN'S ENFRANCHISEMENT BILL.

LONDON, April 10, 1875.

IF any one had entered the House of Commons as I did on Wednesday afternoon, about five o'clock, and had heard the peroration to the speech of the late Attorney-General without knowing what the subject under discussion happened to be, he would have supposed that he had come in to witness the dying struggle of a strong administration, if not the falling effort of an extinguished empire. Sir Henry James owes his Parliamentary reputation principally to a speech which he made against the enfranchisement of women three years ago, and to a vigorous election contest which he fought and won at Taunton against the persistent hostility of the Woman's Disabilities League, which directed the whole of its influence against him, even to the length of sending two wild women to dog his footsteps during the whole of the election, when he vacated his seat on his appointment as Attorney-General in the autumn of 1873; it being, you will remember, a matter of election etiquette not to contest the seat of a Law officer when he receives his appointment as Attorney-General. On Wednesday, on the second reading of the bill for conferring the franchise upon women, Sir Henry wound up the debate, speaking from the first Opposition bench in the place usually occupied by the leader of the party—a position which helped the delusion that a great administration was about to receive its death-blow. The discussion had languished for several hours. Mr. Forsyth, who introduced the measure, had been dull, though his speech, carefully prepared and delivered with stately decorum, was evidently pleasing to the ladies in the cage above the Speaker's chair. Mr. Chaplin, a wealthy Lincolnshire squire, well known on the Turf, and not inexperienced in the ways of the wily sex, had moved the rejection of the bill, in a speech that was characterized as "splendid" by a succeeding speaker. Mr. Leatham, the Radical member for Huddersfield, who having lately acquired a landed property has very properly put on a coating of conservatism over his extreme views, seconded Mr. Chaplin's opposition, and made an effective speech full of neatly prepared impromptu sarcasms and sharply-turned epigrams. He was followed by Mr. Smollett, an elderly gentleman with a Scotch accent, who has wrecked a fair Parliamentary career on the sunken rock of his great-granduncle's reputation—Smollett the historian and

novelist. Mr. Smollett of our times has, unfortunately for himself, adopted much of the last-century coarseness of his distinguished relative's style, without one spark of his humor to set it off becomingly in the present day. The topic under discussion was congenial to his peculiar style of oratory, and he was careful not to pander to what no doubt seemed to him the prejudices of a prudish House; but, on the principle that a Smollett should call things by their Anglo-Saxon names, he gave free rein to his fancy and to a copious and straightforward vocabulary. The House did not like it, and for a moment was pleased to listen to a stern rebuke inflicted on him by Mr. Stansfeld, who has constituted himself the champion of the sex in all their worst vagaries, but in the end it experienced a feeling of revulsion at the latter gentleman's argument, and obviously voted in silence that the speech was a failure and the argument unsound. So far, with the exception of Mr. Chaplin's speech, the debate was poor. For three more hours it did not improve, but then Sir Henry James, with the intense passion of a man who had been pursued by harpies, rose at the table and delivered his mind upon the measure. He did not complain much of the bill itself, except that it would enfranchise wives as well as maidens; but he saw, "written in invisible ink" between the lines of the deftly-framed proposal, domestic strife in every family in the land, social revolution, imperial ruin, and all the other horrors which an eager imagination, heated by the persecution of many weird sisters working mischief in his constituency, conjured up to terrify the British nation. In his best dramatic style, and in imploring accents, he addressed first his own side of the House, and then the other, and finally the Speaker. He entreated the Liberals to refuse to pass a measure which would destroy their party, as all women, led by clergymen and doctors, would vote for Tory candidates. He entreated the Tories not to pass a measure that would uproot the constitution and overthrow all the cherished institutions of ages. He entreated the Speaker, who was there to moderate between the parties, to proclaim whether such a measure would not "endanger the happiness of the people and the greatness and stability of the empire." The words were brave; but, as it appeared, they were none too brave for the occasion. In the division, which immediately followed, the bill was thrown out by a small majority—only 35.

It seems a poor thing to come down from such flights as these to anything so commonplace as history, but I think it may not be uninteresting to trace the fate of this measure on the several occasions on which the House has expressed an opinion upon it. In 1870, a time when people's thoughts were occupied with Ireland and with education, the second reading of this bill was carried in a thin House by a small majority, no one believing that such an innovation was seriously intended; but on the motion of going into committee it was thrown out by a majority of 126, the number of votes being, ayes, 94; noes, 220.

In 1871, the ayes in favor of the second reading were 151; the noes, 220.

In 1872, the ayes in favor of the second reading were 143; the noes, 222.

In 1873, the ayes in favor of the second reading were 155; the noes, 222.

In 1874, no division—the bill withdrawn.

In 1875, the ayes in favor of the second reading were 152; the noes, 187.

It is curious to notice how closely the members correspond on either side each year, but it is somewhat remarkable to find that the supporters in the old Parliament and in the new are, numerically, almost identical. To the apparent falling off in the numbers of the opponents of the measure, I do not attach much importance. It may be that some who were under pledges to their constituents not to oppose the bill, determined to stay away from the division. But the real cause of the diminution in the numbers is due to an even more prosaic fact. Wednesday happened to be the day on which the Princess of Wales went down to Chatham to assist at the launch of the new iron-clad ship, called after her the *Alexandra*, and where Royalty goes, there the faithful Commons are pretty sure to follow. It probably did not occur to any of those who thus absented themselves that there was much danger of a second reading of a bill to create a social and political revolution being carried by a Tory Parliament, and in that belief they took a holiday. But, be the cause what it may, the small majority by which it has been lost has excited the promoters of the bill. They point with some elation to the fact that Mr. Disraeli, the head of the present Administration, and one member of his Cabinet, Lord John Manners, voted for the bill, and that Mr. Gladstone, the head of the last Administration, did not vote at all. But they discreetly draw a veil over the other fact that no less than twelve of the last Government, including Mr. Bright, Lord Hartington, and Mr. Lowe, and nine of the present, including Mr. Cross, Mr. Gathorne Hardy,

and the two Tory whips, voted against them. Ignoring these not insignificant details, they look upon the passing of the bill at no distant future as a foregone conclusion, and they are already preparing to redouble their exertions to secure this still far-off social event in an early session of Parliament.

And from one, and that the logical, point of view, people seem fully well satisfied that they are not far wrong. If the occupation of a house and the payment of rates thereon constitute a qualification for the suffrage, and women do occupy houses and pay rates upon them, they ought not to be excluded from voting. "If John Brown," as one honorable member put it, "lives in No. 5 in any street and votes, why should Mary Smith, who lives under similar conditions in No. 6, be disqualified?" The logical answer to the question is not quite clear, but, as the Frenchman said when some one taxed him with a logical discrepancy in his views of the Franco-Prussian war, "on ne conte pas sur la logique dans la guerre." Politicians say you cannot legislate by logic to the subversion of expediency. If you, on mature reflection, are satisfied that the consistency of centuries should be overturned, and women should in all things be as men, then this measure may be passed. But, so soon as it is passed, those who have promoted it cannot cease from troubling until women sit in the House of Commons and in the House of Lords, as they now do on school-boards, and take an active part in the foreign and domestic legislation of the country. Neither can they draw the line at that point. If women enjoy the privileges of male citizenship, they must bear the burdens; and all the professions and trades, including the army, the navy, and the police, will demand their contingent from the hitherto protected sex. The stone once set rolling on the hilltop, as Sir Henry James so beautifully remarked, will not cease rolling till it reaches the valley. And if the bill passes, the defenders of expediency urge, the thin end of the wedge (to use their favorite metaphor) is inserted into our domestic, social, and imperial institutions, and it will be driven through until the gap is made irreparable.

I confess to a stolid sympathy with the advocates of expediency, and, though I never was dogged for days and nights by two women during an election contest, I cannot help feeling some dread of this social and domestic carpentering. It was only the other day that the principal and the professors in the University of Edinburgh experienced to the full some of the horrors pictured by the late Attorney-General by neglecting the precautions which the House of Commons were entreated to take at the outset of this new crusade. These learned gentlemen, some years ago—the year, as I remember by a *bon-mot* of his upon the subject, that Prévoist-Paradol visited Edinburgh before he went to you—made arrangements whereby ladies who had a turn for nursing might obtain some instruction in the medical school in their University. In their case, even more than in that of Mr. Forsyth,

"These good men little knew
What the wily sex could do."

Six or seven ladies presented themselves, and were duly admitted to a limited attendance at the University. The arrangement worked well for a short time. But the ladies were not satisfied with limitations. They requested first one extension and then another, until their full demands were tabled, and amounted to all the privileges of male medical students, attendance with male students at the professors' lectures and University medical degrees. The authorities saw too late the fatal result of the admission of the thin end of the wedge, and it was only by a protracted litigation in the Scotch law courts, and, if I am not mistaken, in the House of Lords on appeal, that the matter was settled by the exclusion of the ladies by judicial decision. Such institutions as Girthon College, near Cambridge, where ladies have the advantage of professorial and tutorial assistance in their studies in their own class-rooms, and without the intermixture of male students, may be commended. A Royal Commission on Scotch Endowments, which has just issued its report, has recommended that an institution similar to Girthon should be established in Edinburgh, and supported out of misapplied endowments, and that, no doubt, is a reasonable recommendation. But such institutions and proposals are very different from the institution which the medical ladies desired to establish in the University of Edinburgh, and very different from the proposals of Mr. Forsyth and Mr. Stansfeld, which have so upset the equilibrium of the late Attorney-General.

AUSTRALIAN POLITICS.

MELBOURNE, Feb. 1.

THE first session of the Eighth Parliament of Victoria has just closed, and all parties agree in denouncing it as a failure. "The performances of the Victoria Parliamentary Theatre have been one long-continued outrage on public taste and public intelligence," says the conservative *Argus*. "The

session has been one of the most barren and least satisfactory since the introduction of the constitution," says the liberal and ministerial *Age*. When I add that the one measure passed which excited any real interest in Parliament was an act to continue the payment of members, you will probably judge us more hardly than we deserve. Our public men are pretty fair representatives of the community; self-seeking, but not generally corrupt; factious at times, but also capable of public spirit, and failing just now to accomplish anything only because they have no very definite views and no competent leader. Perhaps it may be added that we are too prosperous at present to concern ourselves very seriously with questions of reform. Like true Englishmen, we regard a statesman who looks five years ahead as "unpractical," and prefer to put off repairing our house till the walls crack. Nevertheless, we are not indisposed to take up a speculative question from time to time; and the present session has been more interesting from the failure of two measures, which will serve to show whither we are drifting, than from its insignificant achievements in tinkering local acts or authorizing public works.

The most ambitious of our failures was an attempt to reform our constitution. Like most British colonies, we possess two Houses of Parliament, and are more or less embarrassed to know what to do with one of them. It is part of our political creed that the Legislative Assembly corresponds to the House of Commons in power and dignity, but we hold quite as strongly that the Legislative Council is not a House of Peers or even an Upper House. In a country where we have no history, no established church, and no aristocracy, where titles are rather laughed at, and any assumption of rank positively disliked, public opinion will not tolerate the institution of a counterfeit peerage. But then, again, our Council has no resemblance to the American Senate. The whole area of Victoria is about equal to that of Great Britain; and not even a stump-ordinator can affect to regard it as a federation of counties. Some philosophical conservatives hold that the Council represents the critical or deliberative element, and that its function is to prevent indiscreet legislation. Unluckily, it is notorious that no man good enough to get a seat in the Assembly will accept one in the Council; and it seems peculiar to entrust our second-rate men with a veto upon the measures of our ablest. The truer theory, I believe, is that the Council represents a single interest, that of property, and a single class, that of employers. It is elected by a limited constituency of electors, with a high qualification; its members are either moneyed men or possess the confidence of the moneyed class; and it never fails to veto any measure that appears to touch existing rights or to threaten uneven taxation. Having this single view before it, it is much more unanimous than the Assembly; and as its members are elected for ten years, they can defy public opinion. It has once produced a dead-lock in the colony by refusing to pass the supplies. It constantly rejects measures which the public and the Assembly are agreed in desiring. Our premier, in the early part of the year, Mr. Francis, pledged himself to appeal to the country on a measure for reforming the constitution, which should diminish the Council's power to obstruct. He proposed that where a measure passed by the Assembly in two consecutive sessions had been twice vetoed in the Council, the two Houses should vote upon it in conference. This, or something like it, as I need hardly tell your readers, was practised in Scotland, and is the plan adopted in Austria, in Wurtemberg, in Hesse-Cassel, in Norway, and, to a certain extent, in Sweden and in Switzerland. But Mr. Francis, his advisers, and his opponents, knew only of the Norwegian precedent; and for some weeks, till the public mind had been enlightened by discussion, there was a perfect outburst of conservative indignation at "the Norwegian fad." It really seemed as if the argument, "it is not English," would be conclusive. But the good sense of the great constituencies triumphed, and a House was finally returned in which Mr. Francis appeared to be absolute. The second reading was carried by an overwhelming majority. At the third reading an honourable and able, but most impracticable Radical, Mr. Higinbotham, headed a secession, on the ground that the Assembly was parting with too much of its power. The unwilling supporters of the bill instantly rattled, and the Government majority dwindled down to two. At this critical moment Mr. Francis, on whom all depended, fell dangerously ill. A new Ministry was formed, and the bill has been withdrawn for the year. It is to be introduced again next session, but there is little hope that the Ministers, who are now in on sufferance, will be allowed to pass any measure of importance. The discussion, however, has had its use. It has shown that our people are stubbornly and not stolidly British. They have not the Yankee readiness to give a new thing a trial because it is new, but they will not absolutely condemn it because it is not old. They went with Mr. Francis sufficiently to make him all-powerful in the Assembly, but I do not think they would have supported him in a protracted quarrel with the

Council. They are more likely to sweep it away altogether in some time of popular excitement. They cannot be very enthusiastic about patching up what is radically bad.

Meanwhile, the Council has profited by its reprieve to veto a measure which is loudly demanded in the country, which is supported by all influential newspapers, and which the Assembly passed in a week, almost without discussion. The Bill for Mining on Private Property is no new measure, and deals with a very flagrant want. In all transfers of public land in this colony the Crown has invariably reserved the "royal" metals of gold and silver. Nothing is more certain, therefore, than that a man does not own the gold on his own property. But the Crown has forgotten to reserve the right of search, and the consequence is that great tracts of auriferous land are now locked up. The question becomes more and more important every year. In the first place, our actual gold-fields show signs of exhaustion, and several thousand miners are said to be out of work. In the next place, pending the enactment of some general measure, all lands supposed to be auriferous are being withheld from agricultural settlement. The bill passed this year by the Assembly allowed the Governor to grant leases for mining on private property. If the persons applying are not themselves the owners of the land, they were to make compensation to the owners, and the leases were to be forfeited if the mines were not honestly worked. Such a measure does not, I think, seem very revolutionary, though it undoubtedly assumes that the State will not allow any man to withhold from public use what he does not use himself. But out of thirty members of Council, Government could only bring together seven to vote for this measure. Its opponents throughout took the line that owners of land were entitled to sell the gold which had never been conveyed to them; in other words, that mining rights cannot be reserved in a sale of land. Views so discordant can hardly be reconciled, and as the bill will certainly not be let drop, its further discussion will probably lead to fresh complications between the Council and the Assembly.

You will see from what I have said of the Mining on Private Property Bill that we have been forced into some broader speculations than are currently accepted in England. I feel certain that in England an attempt to enforce the rights of the Crown by granting licenses to mine for gold on private property would be regarded as grossly oppressive. Here the opposition to the bill has absolutely no strength, it may almost be said no existence, outside the Legislative Council. There is another respect in which we are likely, before long, to be forced into an un-English current of thought: I mean as regards our land laws. For some years past we have been legislating with the view to creating a class of yeoman-farmers. In this colony we have failed signally, for reasons which I hope to explain in a subsequent letter; and it seems likely that we shall soon pass laws to prevent the accumulation of large properties in the hands of individuals. Otherwise—so great has been the accumulation of wealth—we have every chance of seeing four-fifths of the colony divided between the immediate descendants of three or four hundred persons.

I have only to add that at present our prosperity is something wonderful. We defy all economical laws by protective tariffs and inconsistent land legislation, and the revenue shows no sign of decrease. Here and there a particular industry, like the mining, falls a little behind; but its deficiencies are more than compensated by the good seasons of the last three or four years, which have given us heavy clips of wool and abundant harvests. Altogether, the public revenue is about four millions, or at the rate of five pounds (\$25) a head. Of this we spend about a fifth (£500,000) on a state system of secular education. But then the interest on our debt is almost paid by the receipts from our public works, and our army and navy are only in embryo.

Correspondence.

THE "ARMSTRONG" GUN.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE NATION:

SIR: Allow me to call attention to a very grave omission in Appleton's 'Cyclopædia,' which ought either to be corrected or explained at once. In the articles "Artillery" and "Cannon," the former by Colonel H. A. Du Pont, U.S.A., the latter by General James Harrison Wilson, the guns of Armstrong, Frazer, Blakely, Krupp, and others are fully and minutely described. But the inventor of this modern gun which is revolutionizing the heavy artillery of the world, is not even mentioned by name, although the inventor was an American. In the year 1844, Daniel Treadwell, professor in Harvard University, devised the whole modern process of gun

manufacture, now adopted in Prussia and England, and made guns with astonishing success. If Treadwell's skill in lobbying and reasoning with incompetent officials and military commissions had only been equal to his science, his gun would have been at once adopted by the United States Government. In England, as soon as the Treadwell patent expired, the invention was eagerly seized on, and the Treadwell guns are now made there under the name of the "Armstrong" gun. The so-called "Armstrong" gun is the Treadwell gun in every particular, with the single exception of the substitution of the steam-hammer in the manufacture for the hydrostatic press—a change of doubtful value. It cannot be supposed that the omission of Treadwell's name, and of a full and just recognition of his services, is due to ignorance, as the gun is mentioned in earlier editions of the 'Cyclopædia;' and if, as appears probable, it is not an omission, but a suppression, and the suppression is due to boyish prejudices about *péquin*, and a reluctance to admit that the most formidable engine of war ever devised was entirely conceived and perfected, and successfully manufactured, by a civilian and a professor in a college, then the sooner the articles in question are rewritten, the better. Nothing short of a full and explicit statement of Treadwell's whole invention, *with dates*, can make amends for the injustice done him.

Very respectfully yours,

N. N.

NEW YORK, April 22, 1875.

THE NATURAL HISTORY OF THE LOBBY.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE NATION :

SIR : Having passed the winter in Cambridge, and been brought more or less in contact with the young men there, I was much struck with the extent to which the *Nation* is read and referred to. An influence of this sort involves some responsibility. The scantiness of the sources of information from anything beyond a partisan and temporary point of view, as to the working of our Government, is such as to make instruction in comparative politics one of the most apparent wants in our collegiate education.

Your article upon "The Supreme Court on the Lobby," valuable as it is, seems to me to admit of further analysis. Why is it that a claim like that of Mr. Trist, supposed to be just, is pressed upon Congress year after year without receiving any attention? And why is it, again, that a professional lobby has grown up as the only means of getting anything through Congress? Why has a just claim no chance without the lobby, and any claim, just or unjust, a very good chance if the lobby is properly handled? The first reason seems to me to be the entire absence of personal and public responsibility. If a just claim were neglected in England, some member would address a personal enquiry to a Cabinet Minister, and the Opposition, whose function it is to enforce just such criticisms, would insist upon a satisfactory explanation. But you cannot cross-question a majority, because it will not reply. It is notorious that men will do and leave undone in a body what they will not singly. There is with us no Opposition, because there is nobody for it to act upon. Another reason is the necessity, in the absence of any guiding authority over the vast mass of business brought before Congress, of the reference of all business to standing committees. As these committees do their work outside, and from impulses of which the public can have no knowledge, the lobby, whether for good or evil, is a necessity. It is the only means of conducting business with committees, whether by a private person pursuing a claim, or by the Secretary of the Treasury with a plan for a return to specie payments. Add the fact, that every measure must be got through both Houses, not by responsible leadership, but, as it were, by a haphazard crystallization of majorities, and the necessity of the lobby as an institution becomes apparent. Finally, special legislation, whether in Congress or the States, is a natural result of employing only special legislators. The nation is not represented in Congress. The members who form all the working committees are local representatives. Will they not, as a matter of course, give their attention to local wants?

There is but one reason why we should not have responsible ministers guiding, though not controlling legislation, securing publicity of debate, and strict accountability not only for themselves but for the majority of the individual members of Congress. That reason is the interest of the lobby, a power which is just as determined and just as able to prevent publicity, responsibility, coherence of legislation, national as against special laws, in short, honest and good government of any kind, as it is to bar or promote any claim which it may choose. So long as the people choose to be governed by standing committees they must make up their minds to a virtual government by the lobby. When they are sufficiently tired of the lobby, they must insist that the executive branch, the object of the national election, shall

have the powers requisite for carrying on the Government, subject to responsibility to Congress and the country, which will then first begin to be duly enforced.

G. B.

Boston, April 24, 1875.

ENGLISH VOCABULARIES.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE NATION :

SIR : Will you allow me to add a word of explanation to a paragraph in the *Nation* of February 25 with regard to the number of words in the vocabulary of a person of fair intelligence? This paragraph was a brief mention of a paper in which I expressly defined a *word* to be (for my purpose) "a symbol occurring in capital letters in the main body of Webster's Dictionary, edition of 1852." I should feel great diffidence in criticising any results reached by so eminent a scholar as Professor Marsh, and this definition of a word shows that my count of the words in common use agrees substantially with his own estimates as explained in the *Nation* of April 23. I think I may say, however, that Professor Marsh's meaning is not so perfectly clear in his 'Lectures on the English Language,' pp. 181-2, as it is made in his note to the *Nation*, for it has not only misled me, who have no particular knowledge on the subject, but also a distinguished philologist whom I consulted in regard to it.

It may perhaps be proper to add, in regard to my estimate of the number of words in a vocabulary of average size (30,000 words), that Webster does not give "love, lovest, loves, loved, lovedst, and loving as six words, but as three, viz., love (noun), love (verb), and loving (adjective), and I counted these as three.

My object was to get a practical idea of the number of words, in the sense in which I used the term, which are in common use, and I counted *lover, loveless, and lovely* as three words, although they have the same "simple or stem."

With regard to the vocabularies of Milton and Shakspeare the same rule was followed, my object not being to compare the number of stem-words which they used with the number in common use, but the number of signs for ideas, whether derivative or not.

EDWARD S. HOLDEN.

WASHINGTON, April 24, 1875.

Notes.

NOYES, HOLMES & CO., Boston, will shortly issue 'Piano and Song ; How to Teach ; How to Learn ; and How to Form a Judgment of Musical Performances'—a series of papers by the late Friedrich Wieck, the father of Frau Dr. Clara Schumann and instructor of herself and her husband, the famous composer. The translation has been made by an American lady.—Mr. John Harper, the senior member of the firm of Harper & Bros., and one of the four brothers of the earlier firm, of whom but one survives, died in this city last week.—The Systematic Benevolence Society of Birmingham, Conn., offers through its secretary, Mr. Geo. W. Shelton, a prize of one hundred dollars for the best tract ("that shall be judged satisfactory") on giving a percentage of one's annual income for charity. The essays must reach the Secretary by July 1.—We are glad to notice a third and revised pocket-edition of Prof. J. D. Whitney's 'Yosemite Guide-Book' (New York: B. Westermann & Co.), very compact and elegantly printed. A fourth map has now been added to those of the editions of 1869, 1872, namely, of the Hetch-Hetchy Valley, which is described for the first time in this work. This cañon of the Tuolumne is about twelve miles north of that of the Merced, and is well worth visiting, though as yet rather difficult of access. "It is," says Prof. Whitney, "grand and interesting, but not to be compared with the Yosemite." However, it would appear wonderful anywhere but in California.—A third revised and enlarged edition of Lippincott's 'Philadelphia and its Environs' is also before us. It is profusely illustrated, and, we need not say, handsomely printed. In the chapter "Relics of the Past" we find no mention of a very respectable, if humble and secluded relic—the Friends' Almshouse. The architectural appearance of the city is undergoing a marked change; perhaps, on the whole, for the better.—In Bulletin No. 33 of the Boston Public Library, the patrons of that institution are treated to the bibliography of Lexington, Concord, and Bunker Hill, and two pages are occupied with an analytic account of works on costume. As usual, these lists refer to works in the Library, but are serviceable anywhere.—The most readable article in the *China Review* for November and December is that on "Chinese Proverbs and their Lessons," by Mr. Alfred Lister; and the most noticeable

passage in it is that which asserts, with illustrations, that "the Chinese have abundant proverbs implying not only a belief in God, but also a humble trust in him." The existence of this belief has been denied, because "the Chinese name for God is also, as it has been in almost every nation, the name of the sky."—A correspondent writes us: "Let me call your attention to Henri Mürger's '*Scènes de la vie de Bohème*' (ed. Mich. Levy, p. 28). You will find that what you call 'one of the latest stories circulated illustrative of the political condition of France' (April 1, p. 215), is simply a fragment of one of Mürger's *bons-mots* put into the mouth of *Marcel*, the artist, as early as 1830. It has suffered frequently at the hands of plagiarists, but has never before, I believe, been travestied by a newspaper so well entitled to respect for its cultivated tone as the *Nation*."

—Our readers have been kept informed of the progress of the 'Statistical Atlas of the United States,' under the direction of Gen. Francis A. Walker, late Superintendent of the Census. We are now able to announce that the letterpress is completed, thus finishing the work. The five thousand copies authorized by Congress in 1873 will soon find their way among the public libraries, learned societies, academies, etc., etc., which may be selected by the Secretary of the Interior in his distribution of them. Under a proper system of disposing of Government publications at a fair price, this Atlas would be made procurable by the public at large; as it is, it can become the private possession of but a few. The want of time and money has frustrated the intention of providing every map or group of maps with a commentary, but there is still a goodly number of papers, which we shall attempt briefly to indicate. Gen. Walker himself furnishes the Introduction, and also the concluding article on the "Relations of Race and Nativity to Mortality in the United States." The latter has already been published in substance in the transactions of the American Public Health Association, as a paper read before that body. It deals with an admittedly abstruse and difficult question, but reaches probable if not positive conclusions of great interest. Prof. J. D. Whitney's paper on the "Physical Features of the United States" is clear and untechnical enough to find a place in any text-book on American history. More technical is the explanation of the Geological Map of the United States, by Chas. H. Hitchcock and Wm. P. Blake, to which is appended a very valuable list of geological maps and publications. Prof. R. W. Raymond describes, in a readable manner, but briefly, and with a liberal quotation from one of his own reports as Commissioner of Mining Statistics, the gold and silver mines of the West. Prof. Hitchcock, again, discusses the coal measures of the United States, divided into the New England basin, the anthracite basins of Pennsylvania, the Appalachian coal-field, the Michigan, Illinois, and Missouri basins, and the Texas coal-field. Mr. S. W. Stocking, of the United States Patent Office, gives a full explanation of his valuable map of the areas and political divisions of the United States; with text and map together, one can construct the map of the United States at any given date. Two elaborate tables accompany this paper. Mr. E. B. Elliott, of the United States Bureau of Statistics, a writer of acknowledged authority, contributes an "Approximate Life-Table for the United States on the basis of the Census of 1870."

—Two other papers remain to be mentioned as having a special interest. One, by Professor William H. Brewer, is on "The Woodlands and the Forest Systems of the United States"; the other, by Mr. S. A. Galpin, on "The Minor Political Divisions of the United States." The extent of woodland in the country can only be estimated. On the maps of the Land Office, remarks Professor Brewer, "much more care has been shown in locating the mineral districts than the woodlands." This is not surprising when we consider that immigrants have naturally avoided the wooded States, like Indiana, in favor of territory that required no clearing, and that the mining regions offer as an attraction for colonists neither timber nor arable land. For rapid and widespread settlement the policy of the Land Office was well adapted, and such settlement had a vital (though unforeseen and uncalculated) bearing on the perpetuity of the Union as against slavery and secession. Professor Brewer's view of the gain and loss in woodland is on the whole encouraging. Its area is very slowly if at all diminishing in New England, and the same may be said of the Southeastern and Southwestern States, where the prime trees are taken out, but the other growth not disturbed. In the Middle States there is a rapid falling-off, without compensation, in area and value, and the greatest consumption of all in the Northwest. As an illustration of the treelessness of certain virgin districts, Professor Brewer says that "it is possible to cross the continent from the Pacific to the Gulf of Mexico without passing through a forest five miles in extent, or large enough to be indicated on the map." The main distinction of growth is broad-leaved, hard-wood trees for the eastern half of the continent,

and conifers for the western half. "Neither beech, nor elm, nor hickory, nor mulberry, nor basswood, nor tulip-tree, nor magnolia, nor sassafras forms an element in the forests of the Rocky Mountains and westward." We do not remember to have read before of the redwood that, when cut, a new growth sprouts from the stump, "which is not true of any other timber-tree belonging to the coniferae." A eucalyptus felled at Sonoma, Cal., in 1874, at the age of nine years, was ninety-six feet high and eighteen inches in diameter at four feet from the ground. Mr. Galpin's subject is novel, and susceptible of much more extended treatment than was possible in the Atlas. He compares and illustrates the town system of self-government, which exists in its purity only in New England; the county system, characteristic of the South; and the compromise system, prevalent in the Middle States. He quotes a letter from Jefferson, in which that statesman praises the New England system for the facility which it affords of rapid and concerted action, saying that it enabled those colonies to resist British oppression more promptly than the clumsy communities to the south of them, and later, as States, to effect the repeal of the embargo, in opposition to the wishes of the larger half of the Union. This would have afforded a good text for orators at the Concord Centennial. It may be doubted if the town-meeting system was practicable in a community essentially slaveholding, and therefore essentially agricultural and sparsely populated, and, of course, essentially oligarchical.

—The National Academy of Sciences has just concluded its April meeting in Washington, which was held at the Smithsonian Institution, under the presidency of Professor Henry. The attendance was not large, either of members or of the public, but a respectable number of papers were read, of which a very full report has been given by the *Tribune*. Of the more strictly scientific papers, that of Professor Loomis, of Yale College, on the results to be reached from a discussion of the signal-service maps, and Professor Langley's account of solar phenomena observed at Alleghany Observatory, were of most general interest; while President Barnard's Report for the Committee on Weights, Measures, and Coinage, and Mr. Justice Bradley's (of the Supreme Court) proposal for a reform of the Gregorian Calendar, referred most directly to practical questions. The reform of the calendar has been somewhat fully discussed lately, and a bill setting forth that "the Gregorian year pays no proper respect to the cardinal points in the earth's orbit," and proposing to secure such respect, was laid before the House of Representatives at its last session. Mr. Justice Bradley's plan proposes to fix the beginning of the year at the winter solstice (Dec. 21), and to divide it into four unequal parts of 90, 93, 93, and 89 days; in leap-years the last part is to have 90 days. In the remarks on this paper, a much better plan was mentioned, which had been previously discussed by the Philosophical Society of Washington. This was to begin the year with December 21, but to divide it into six parts of two months each, each part to have 61 days in leap-years, and the last part to have but 60 days in common years. The scheme would be somewhat as follows for a common year of both systems:

| | Jan. | Feb. | Mar. | Apr. | May. | June. | July. | Aug. | Sept. | Oct. | Nov. | Dec. |
|------------|------|------|------|------|------|-------|-------|------|-------|------|------|------|
| Gregorian. | 31, | 28, | 31, | 30, | 31, | 30, | 31, | 31, | 30, | 31, | 30, | 31. |
| Ideal. | 31, | 30; | 31, | 30; | 31, | 30; | 31, | 30; | 30; | 31; | 30, | 30. |

Thus only February, August, and December would be altered by this ingenious plan, which is due to Mr. E. B. Elliott, the statistician. Papers by Professors Alex. Agassiz, Gill, Marsh, and Newberry, on zoological topics; by Professors Newcomb and Davidson, on astronomy; and by Professors Guyot and Lesley, on geology and physical geography, were also read. The communication of Professor Marsh was on the "Progressive Increase in Size of the Brain in Fossil Mammals." Briefly, they were to the effect that in the earlier mammals the brain was much smaller than in the later ones, and that there had been a progressive increase in the size of it—in other words, that the brain as a whole has developed much more than in ratio to the size of the animal, and that the cerebrum has also grown much more in proportion than the cerebellum. This theorem was illustrated by reference to the development of the brain in the several successive members of the chief groups of Ungulates, as well as in groups of the orders of Primates, Carnivores, Insectivores, and Rodents. Professor Lesley reported on the progress of the recently-instituted Geological Survey of Pennsylvania. Provision had been made for three years only, and the Survey had to be organized to correspond. It appears that three cardinal points have been selected from which to work, viz., Easton, York, and on the Juniata. Such obstacles are opposed in the coal and oil districts as to render efficient examinations of these almost impracticable. One of the principal and most unexpected results thus far developed is the ascertainment of the comparatively small vertical thickness of the lower limestones in the Reading district. These had been previously reported to be 10,000 to 12,000 feet in

vertical extension, but now turn out to be only about 2,000 to 3,000 feet thick. The Academy re-elected Professor Robert E. Rogers (chemist), and chose Professor A. Hall, U.S.N. (astronomer), Professor Alpheus Hyatt (naturalist), Professor Joseph Le Conte (geologist), and Mr. Lewis H. Morgan (ethnologist), as new members.

—The general index to the *Revue des Deux Mondes* ('Table Générale—1831-1874') has at last been published. It makes a volume of 477 pages, of the familiar size and type of the *Revue* itself (New York: F. W. Christern). In a modest but self-appreciative introduction the history of this periodical is traced from its commencement "in that great intellectual movement which set in towards the close of the Restoration, and expanded with so much éclat immediately after the Revolution of July." Intimately associated as it was with the new constitutional Government, the *Revue* did not concern itself with politics till 1833. The Revolution of 1848 and the establishment of the Empire caused, and we suppose we may say compelled, it ("par suite des restrictions légales") to give less exclusive attention to the affairs of France, and more to those of other countries—to justify, more than it had hitherto done, its world-embracing title. It is with sadness that the conductors of the *Revue* have to confess that twenty years of deliberate endeavor to enlighten the leading minds of France in regard to foreign nations, and particularly (after Sadowna) the great neighboring nation, failed to arouse the country from its vanity of self-contemplation and that overweening confidence in its own strength which was so rudely shaken in 1870. "Frightful disasters were the price of our illusions and defects," and the lesson still holds: "France will never know herself well except on condition of her knowing foreign countries better than she has hitherto done." Seven hundred and fifty writers, and these nearly all Frenchmen, figure in the 'Table Générale' as contributors to the *Revue*. They are given in Part I. in alphabetical order, their contributions being classified and then arranged chronologically. In this way one easily discovers the first connection of each with the *Revue*, the period of his greatest activity, and his latest appearance down to 1874. Part II. is analytical, of subjects discussed; Part III. is geographical, for an example of which take *England*, whose subheadings are: Literary and political history; legislation and administration; political economy; agriculture, sylviculture, and sport; industry; commerce; finances; public works, and railroads; colonies; army; marine; voyages, and ethnography; poetry; novels; drama; fine arts; religions; philosophy and morals; sciences; public instruction—in all, ten pages of the Index. The Old World occupies in this division nearly forty-four pages; the New World but eight, one-half of which are devoted to the United States, leading off, as it happens (shall we say prophetically?), with an article on Canada. Travellers in this country, among whom MM. Michel Chevalier, De Tocqueville, Duvergier de Hauranne, J. J. Ampère, and Auguste Laugel are the best known, furnish most of the writings about the United States. The only American names among the contributors are (by virtue of translation) Fenimore Cooper, in a letter to Lafayette on public expenditures, T. B. Aldrich, Bret Harte, and Edward Eggleston. Mr. George Walker, we imagine, needed no translator in writing on the American finances since the civil war. The only British names we have recognized in the list are Allan Cunningham, Wilkie Collins, and "Ouida." Half a dozen other writers would, we think, complete the list of the non-French. Among these Signor Bonghi, K. Hillebrand, and Vámbéry may have used the French as an original medium.

—A few weeks ago we mentioned the proposed printing of Sainte-Pelaye's 'Glossary of the French Language from its Origin to the Time of Louis XIV.' Some account of the author and his inedited works may not be uninteresting to our readers. Jean-Baptiste de la Curne (the name Sainte-Pelaye was given him to distinguish him from his twin brother) was born at Auxerre in 1697, of an illustrious family. His health was very delicate, and he was carefully kept from study until quite late, not beginning Greek and Latin until he was fifteen. He evinced, however, a wonderful quickness in all he undertook and was received into the Académie des Inscriptions when he was only twenty-seven years old. He was for a time diverted from literature by diplomacy, but soon gave up a brilliant career to return to his studies. He first became interested in Plutarch, but relinquished this author for the early history of France. His labors in this field led him naturally into mediæval literature and an examination of the romances of chivalry. In the prosecution of his work he undertook several journeys to Italy, and made extensive collections of manuscripts and extracts. He finally settled down on two great works: a Dictionary of French antiquities, and a Glossary of Old French. His materials for the latter filled forty quarto volumes, and he had issued a prospectus of the work in 1756, when a friend called his attention to the fact that the Glossary was not his

torical—i.e., took no account of the various phases through which a word passed as to form and meaning. Sainte-Pelaye recognized the justice of the criticism, and did not hesitate to recommence his work, which he completed in sixty-one quarto volumes (MS.), and this it is which is to be published under the editorship of MM. H. Champion, L. Lavre, and Pajot. Sainte-Pelaye was admitted into the French Academy in 1753, and was a member of the *della Crusca*, and other learned societies. He died in 1781, shortly after his brother, between whom and himself there existed the most ardent and touching affection.

—His only important printed work is: 'Mémoires sur l'ancienne chivalrie, considérée comme un établissement politique et militaire' (Paris, 1759-1781. 3 vols. 12mo). His notes and extracts on Provençal literature he turned over to the Abbé Millot, who produced from them his very unsatisfactory 'Histoire Littéraire des Troubadours' (Paris, 1802. 3 vols. 12mo). Sainte-Pelaye's MSS. have, however, been preserved in the National Library and the library of the Arsenal, and some idea of their author's astounding industry may be formed when we say that the first-named library possesses three hundred and thirty-six, and the second over one hundred folio and quarto manuscript volumes. These contain copies, extracts, and notices of MSS. of all kinds, lists of names and subjects, and special and general glossaries. The real work of this enormous collection was done by Sainte-Pelaye himself. His coadjutors for the most part only copied; he then compared the copies again with the original, and explained in the margin the difficult words and passages in the text. These explanations were then copied on separate slips and pasted, in alphabetical order, in folio volumes. Sometimes he himself wrote out difficult passages when the other copies did not seem to him exact enough. It is melancholy to think how little credit this laborious scholar has hitherto received, his greatest work having reposed unprinted in libraries, a precious spoil for literary adventurers and ungrateful scholars who have borrowed from its treasures without acknowledgment. Roquefort, for instance, in his 'Glossaire de la Langue romane' (Paris, 1808. 2 vols. 8vo), took his material almost bodily from Sainte-Pelaye's MSS. without a word of acknowledgment, and had the impudence to put on the title-page 'd'après les manuscrits de la bibliothèque impériale.' More recently, Littré has drawn abundantly from Sainte-Pelaye, as has also Godefroy, the latest lexicographer of Old French, whose work has not yet seen the light, owing to the downfall of the Empire. Nor is it merely for Old French that the Sainte-Pelaye MSS. are so important; he collected a vast amount of material relating to Provençal. Indeed, with access to his collection and the Paris MSS. a student in this department has almost the entire Provençal lyrical literature at his command, without going outside of the National and Arsenal libraries. In the latter are preserved the notices and extracts from the Italian Troubadour MSS., and an extensive index to all the MSS. used by Sainte-Pelaye. He enjoyed unusual facilities for gathering his materials, a Papal brief throwing open to him that most inaccessible of all libraries, the Vatican; and many MSS. are now only known by his descriptions and extracts. In publishing his Glossary, the French people are but doing a tardy act of justice to one of their most laborious and profound if least-known scholars.

—To what an extent the study of Icelandic is carried in the schools of Europe is shown by the lecture-lists of the German universities for the recently-terminated winter semester. While ten universities announced lectures on Old High-German, and nine on Anglo-Saxon, no fewer than eleven maintained courses on Icelandic literature. The lecturers were Möbius at Kiel, Müllenhoff (Berlin), Hildebrand (Halle), Wilken (Göttingen), Kölbing (Breslau), Weigand (Giessen), Bergmann (Strassburg), Ettmüller (Zurich), Zupitza (Vienna), Schönbach (Graz), and Hofmann (Munich). All this is in addition to the lectures of Dr. Konrad Maurer at Munich on Icelandic law, and those of Professor Birlinger at Bonn on Icelandic philology. Some of these names, like those of Maurer and Möbius, are already familiar to the readers of the *Nation*. Of the others, Ettmüller has published an Icelandic chrestomathy and an 'Altnordischer Sagenschatz'; Bergmann is the author of several volumes of commentary, in French, on the so-called elder Edda; while Zupitza has communicated many articles on Icelandic matters to the *Zeitschrift für deutsche Philologie* and other periodicals. Eugen Kölbing, the youngest of these scholars, who was lately appointed to the chair of Icelandic at Breslau, issued last year an admirably-edited volume containing early Icelandic versions of four of the Arthurian legends—the Parcevals saga, the Valversthátt, the Ívents saga, and the Mírmans saga—under the general title of 'Riddarasögur.' That portion of the old Northern literature which embraces the tales of chivalry is an almost unworked field, scores of manuscript sagas of this class still lying on the shelves of Scandinavian libraries awaiting a proper editor. These Icelandic

translations sometimes throw light upon obscure words and passages in the existing texts of the Old French or other originals. In this respect, they possess a general literary interest even greater than that which attaches to the sagas of native growth; and Professor Kölbing's re-edition is to be welcomed on this account as well as for its peculiar value to students of Icelandic.

—Besides that of Kölbing, the past year has brought prominently into notice another new name in the domain of Icelandic scholarship. Dr. Gustaf Cederschjöld of Lund—Sweden's second university—has given to the public, within a few months of each other, two works of special interest. The first reproduces the best and oldest text of the Bandamanna saga, a text hitherto inedited, the two previous editions of the saga (Holar, 1756, and Copenhagen, 1850) having been based upon a later and, on the whole, inferior manuscript. The scene of this saga lies in the northwest of Iceland, and its incidents—the date of which may be placed in the earliest years of the eleventh century—are connected with those of the more famous Grettis saga. It furnishes a curious picture of the formalities of ancient Icelandic jurisprudence, being in fact the story of a noted lawsuit. The other work is a critical edition of the 'Geisli' or 'Olafsdrápa,' a poem of the twelfth century. Its author, Einar Skúlason, an Icelandic skald, composed it in honor of St. Olaf, king of Norway, at the request of King Eystein, a descendant of the canonized monarch. It is the oldest of what may be styled the Christian lays of the later skalds. It was publicly recited in the cathedral of Trondhjem, between the years 1152 and 1155, in the presence of King Eystein and the other royal sons of Harald Gilli, the Archbishop of Norway, and a crowd of lesser dignitaries. It has even been surmised, from one somewhat obscure passage, that among the audience was Nicholas Breakspare, then Cardinal-archbishop of Albano, but subsequently known as Pope Adrian IV., who was sent to Norway in 1152, in order to institute, as Papal legate, the archiepiscopal see of Trondhjem. The Icelandic poetical eulogy, pronounced before an assemblage so brilliant, was loudly applauded; even St. Olaf himself is said to have expressed his gratification by emitting from his shrine what the saga calls "a precious odor," which filled the edifice. Produced under such circumstances, it is not strange that the 'Geisli' came to rank as one of the most renowned of the skaldic lays. Dr. Cederschjöld has followed the text of the manuscript in the Royal Library of Stockholm, which has been little used, and has accompanied it with a valuable introduction, careful syntactical notes, and accurate lists of the poetical paraphrases.

WHITNEY'S LINGUISTIC STUDIES.*

OUR scholars will be glad to see a second volume of Professor Whitney's 'Oriental and Linguistic Studies,' and to learn that the first was well received by the general public; it speaks well for the general public. The first volume was much taken up with views of the origin and nature of language and of the science of language, and it was in great part polemic. The subjects of this volume are not so imposing, nor the noise of battle so loud, but it seems to be even more valuable. It begins with essays on "The British in India" and "China and the West," and closes with an article on "The Lunar Zodiac of India, Arabia, and China," all of which are just such comprehensive, clear, condensed statements of fact and truth as scholars rejoice in having always at hand. Then there are articles on Max Müller's views of mythology and a science of religions. Professor Whitney does not believe that mythology is a disease of language, and he looks for light from a truly scientific comparison of religions, but not from Professor Müller.

The marrow of the book is the phonology. Professor Whitney's essays on this subject had never been given to the general public, and had been for years wholly out of reach. The extent and depth of his investigations will surprise many who thought themselves pretty well acquainted with his work. We have here "The Elements of English Pronunciation," "The Relation of Vowel and Consonant," "Bell's Visible Speech," and "The Sanskrit Accent." There is also an introductory essay on orthography, "How shall we Spell?" which the readers of the *Nation* in 1867 will recognize as an old acquaintance. Professor Whitney is earnestly in favor of a reformed spelling. It is not long since we had Professor Hadley's utterances to the same effect. Indeed, there is no difference of opinion among scholars on this point. It is strange that nothing can be done. We cannot help thinking that Professor Whitney overrates the lions that seem to stop

the road. Some of the literary amateurs of the last generation, to be sure, roared loudly over the destruction of the history of our speech by phonetic innovations, and there may be still some mimetic noise of that kind among our minor essayists; but there is a very good degree of general enlightenment on this subject. There is abundant hostility to the old spelling among the active class of our school superintendents and teachers, especially where there are German children in the schools. If Professor Whitney, and Professor Child for Harvard, and Professor Trumbull, who must be worried beyond measure with the unintelligible attempts at recording our Indian dialects which he has to guess out, and Professor Haldeman for the University of Pennsylvania, and other scholars of the kind, would make an effort, they would find it more successful than they hope. If they would agree on lists of words in which the spelling may be changed, so as to make them conform to analogy and draw them towards a general alphabet and yet leave them recognizable by common readers, they might certainly have the spelling used in their own papers in the transactions of learned societies. The Philological Society of England permits its members to use their own spelling in its printed transactions. These gentlemen might surely move the American Philological Association, the Oriental Society, the National Educational Association, and very likely our scientific associations. The teachers of England and Wales have appointed a committee to examine this matter for them. Measures have already been taken in Germany for the rectification of the spelling of the new Empire. A little definite precept and good example, and urgency from the authorities in scholarship of our universities, might secure a reform of the spelling of our public documents, and move the educational magnates of our common schools and the publishers of school-books, and then the battle would be won.

In the essay on the "Elements of English Pronunciation," Professor Whitney gives an account of all the sounds in his native speech, his method of forming each sound, and the frequency with which it occurs. It is a contribution to the study of English dialects, a subject which is attracting much attention in England. Perhaps a few comments on Professor Whitney's speech may suggest to some of our readers who are familiar with American dialects different from his to report them to Mr. A. J. Ellis, at 25 Argyle Road, Kensington, W., London, for the English Dialect Society. Professor Whitney's is the traditional speech of a cultured family of Northampton, Massachusetts. He begins with the sound of *a* in *far*, *father*. He calls it open *a*; the *a* of *pan* he calls palatal, the *a* of *all* labial. He gives the open sound in *calm*, *answer*, *pass*, *blaspheme*, *path*, *after*, *laugh*, and the like. The writer of this notice is a native of Worcester, Massachusetts, a graduate of Amherst College, and has since lived in the city of New York, in Fredericksburg, Va., and in Easton, Pa. In Worcester we were carefully taught at school to give in most of these words an intermediate sound between *far* and *pan*. In Virginia a cherished tradition of the blue blood requires the *a* of all these words to be fully as labial as that of *all* in New England. The palatal sound is, however, common there; it prevails in Pennsylvania, except before *r*. Professor Whitney's open *a* has a decided labial tone to one long used to the *a* of the Middle States.

Prof. Whitney pronounces *pair*, *there*, *wear*, with the sound of *pan* protracted and followed by a vanish. We have everywhere heard this as the prevailing sound. Those who use the sound of *a* in *pay* are exceptions in a college class in Pennsylvania as well as in Massachusetts. The *e* in *met* he used to give in *plague*, *naked*, *catch*, which are familiar to us, and in *snake*, which is not. "So far as I know," he says, "any and many are the only words in which *a* is allowed to be pronounced as short *e*." We have everywhere heard *z* for *a* in *exemplary*, *corollary*, and the like. He describes the vowel sound of *they* as a slide beginning with *e* in *let* and ending in *i* in *pin*; he gives the same sound in *fate*, *fail*, *great*, *they*. We make this slide in *they* uttered alone; but make no *i*-vanish in *fate*, *fail*, *great*, or in *they* prefixed—*they came*, *they ran*. He describes the vowels of *what*, *war*, *hole*, *fall*, *foot*, as a series produced by increasing rounding of the lips. We do not round the lips for the vowels of *lot*, *naught*, but make a change in the back of the mouth. He says his *what* might with equal propriety be regarded as the short sound of *war* or *far*. Our *lot* is a good short of *war*, but not of our *far*. He gives the *a* of *all* in *God* and *dog*, a familiar pronunciation, exceptional certainly in Virginia and Pennsylvania.

No true short *o* is recognized by orthoepists as English. Professor Whitney makes one in a few common words—*none*, *whole*, *home*, *stone*, *smoke*, *folks*, *coat*, *cloak*, *load*, *throat*, and he hears it from others in *bone* and *boat*; we will add *only*, *both*, *spoken*, *hope*. In Pennsylvania and Virginia short *o* is used, but is so like long *o* in quality that it is not noticed. The New England sound has a shade of the neutral *ü*, which is also common in Pennsylvania. Long *o* in *low* he makes with a vanish to *u*, and he gives the same vanish also in *four*, *door*, *note*, *moat*. We give a different

* 'Oriental and Linguistic Studies. Second Series. The East and West; Religion and Mythology; Orthography and Phonology; Hindu Astronomy. By William Dwight Whitney, Professor of Sanskrit and Comparative Philology in Yale College. New York: Scribner, Armstrong & Co. 1874.

vanish in *four*, *door*, and none at all in *note*, *moat*. Long *u* is heard in *fool*, *rule*, and Prof. Whitney says he makes exactly that same sound in *tube*, *dupe*, *nude*, *sue*, and the like, and also in *use*, *cube*, *pure*, *fume*, *mule*, and the like; but in the last class of words he prefixes *y* to the *oo*, as distinctly pronounced as if it were written: *music* is *myoosic*. In Virginia *u* in *tube* is pronounced as in *music*, and the sound is not *yoo*, or even *ioo*, but a single vowel intermediate. It is a well-known slubboleth in the *tube* class of words, and a stranger betrays himself by giving either *i*-sound or *oo*-sound, just as a beginner in French does in trying for French *u*. We do not make, nor do we hear in Pennsylvania, *y* or *oo* in *music*, but a steady or slightly gliding intermediate. *Squirrel* with *i* as in *irritate* is the traditional polite pronunciation of many Virginian families. Prof. Whitney is fully persuaded that for long *i* in *mine* he begins with *a* in *far* and glides to *i* of *pique*. In close syllables like *type*, *tight*, *desire*, we begin somewhere in the middle of that glide and glide very little. He is for putting down the "reasonless and senseless infection" which spreads the pronunciation of *either* and *neither* with long *i*. We have never lived in an infected region.

He speaks of the locality of the palatal *our*, *du*, in *noir*, *coir*, "which the English are wont to regard as American, the Americans as Yankee, the New Englander as Pennsylvanian or Southern, and so on." We believe that it most prevails as a polite pronunciation in Southern Maryland, saving always in the word *cow*, which is nearer *coo* and a shibboleth. We have been assured by a native expert that at least three *ou*-sounds must be carefully distinguished in familiar words to speak unimpeachable Virginian. Professor Whitney says that *a* alone of final vowels passes distinctly into the *u* of *but*, as in *Asia*. Youth of unquestionable polite tradition in Virginia, and more rarely in Pennsylvania, run to the same pronunciation of final *o*, not only in English but in Latin and Greek words. Perhaps the current squeamish change of *i* to *u* in *Cincinnati* and other Western geographical names is worth mention. The secondary accent has much less power to preserve the vowels in Virginia than in Massachusetts or Pennsylvania; *circumstance* has there a neutral final syllable.

Prof. Whitney's *r* is untrilled and silent when final. We utter final *r* when the next word begins with a vowel. It is less distinct in Virginia than in Massachusetts or Pennsylvania. We close to a distinct buzz in making *y* as in *you*, *ye*; not so in making *w*. Prof. Whitney makes both without buzz, Mr. Ellis buzzes for *w*. We call *b*, *d*, *g* sonant mutes with Prof. Whitney, but much that he says of their sonancy does not seem true of our utterance. A murmur is often made before opening the lips for *ba*, and after closing them for *ab*; and he thinks this prior or subsequent tone is the "sole characteristic distinction" between *b*, *d*, *g* and *p*, *t*, *k*; but we do not make any such tone half the time before *b*, *d*, *g*, certainly almost never before *g*, and we have learned to make it quite well before *p*, *t*, *k*. In whispering, also, we never imitate this murmur as we do the vowels; we do not make the slightest whisper rustle before *g*; and finally, in talking with inhaled breath, a choice experiment, we have not succeeded as yet in making a murmur before an initial mute, but we make a very fair *g* or *b* or *d*. The position of the organs at the moment of movement seems to be the essential condition. Prof. Whitney objects to calling these letters *soft* or *weak*, and has a page of hard sayings about the wonderful ignorance and heedlessness connected with it. *Sonant* seems to us more scientific, but we all call the vowels *soft* poetically, popularly, and not quite senselessly; and it does not seem to us to be wonderful that these vowel-like consonants should be called soft, or that the process by which vowels assimilate consonants to themselves, the common change of surds to sonants, should be called softening or weakening.

Prof. Whitney makes what we call *tongue-tied s*, *z*, *sh*, *zh*, resting the tip of the tongue against the inner face of the lower front teeth. He knows that it is more common to raise the tip of the tongue to the roof of the mouth. We find by enquiry four or five in the hundred who make his letters. Perhaps some peculiarity of his organs misleads him to regard the place touched on the roof of the mouth as the essential difference between *s* and *sh*. It is not so with us. Our *s* is a buzzing tip of the tongue, *sh* a buzzing channel of front and tip; and we can make *s* far back, as we can *t* or *r*. *Nature*, *natyoor*, with a true *t* and a buzzing *y*, quite unlike the prevailing *nachur*, is native speech in many Scotch-Irish families in Pennsylvania. Prof. Whitney describes *h* as the representative of a different letter in each different combination: in *ha*, *h* is a surd *a*—*h* is to *a* as *k* is to *g*; in *hi*, *h* is a surd *i*; in *wh* in *what*, *h* is a surd *w*, and so on. We do not expel the breath in such a way as to call out the peculiar tones of the *a*-chamber in making *h* of *ha*, any more than in making *p* of *pa*. In making *a* we sound a distinct, though brief, click and buzz before the tone of *a*; and this buzz, for which we have no sign in English, but which may

be indicated by the smooth breathing in Greek, seems to us to be the proper sonant to pair with our *h*. As for *wh* (*i. e.*, *hw*) in *what*, the description of it in Prof. Whitney's fashion, as a surd *w* followed by a sonant *u*, would be incorrect if we were to use it. We distinguish *w* from *u* by its having a consonantal movement of the lips; but in *what* there are no two consonantal lip movements, and so no two *w*'s.

The article on the relations of vowel and consonant begins with *a*, which has most tone of all the letters, and arranges the alphabet in series of letters having less and less tone, and in three lines, according as the modification of the tone is made with lips, tongue, or palate. As far as tone predominates, the letters are called vowels, the rest consonants; some are on the dividing line. This gives a very good view of the common English letters, though not, of course, in their natural historical relation. We have at first only three vowels—*a*, *i*, *u*. If we put these as the corners of a triangle, and then represent the new letters as springing from them, we find that the lines of descent run first toward one letter and then another, and the whole gets to be an interlacing thicket. But it is hardly the thing to criticise good work for not being what it does not pretend to be. It is a real objection to the scheme that some of the sounds are the results of complex adjustments, and do not seem to fall on any one of these lines of closure; *a* in *all*, for example, and *o* in *not*, are put on the line of labial closure, but are really dependent on a rounding of the back part of the mouth more than anything else. Prof. Whitney holds that syllables are the work of the hearer, who groups the closer sounds around the more open. But take the word *Ecton*; we certainly make the two first syllables, *Er*, by making two separate jets, or pulses, of breath; we make the two last, *tion*, by two more pulses, and it seems to be the same process when we pronounce any word in distinct syllables. Pulses of breath seem to be dividers of syllables. What Prof. Whitney says of his examples does not always describe our utterance. We give two impulses for *apple*, and close *p* audibly on the first pulse of voice, and open it audibly on the second. He says we cannot make a syllable with *s*; but we often hear, and utter, such syllables, in plurals and possessives, for example, where in careful pronunciation there are repeated syllables in *s* with an unaccented vowel, as in *princesses*. In careless pronunciation, or whisper, the *e* is dropt, and we have distinct pulses of breath, and so distinct syllables of nothing but *s*.

There is plenty more in the book to stimulate and guide the lovers of this kind of research. We trust it may give a new impulse to the most thorough study of the science of language.

MACREADY'S REMINISCENCES.*

ENGLISH literature contains more than one entertaining volume relating to the player's art; but these memoirs of Mr. Macready are more interesting than the 'Apology' of Colley Cibber, or even than the charming autobiography of Holcroft. There is nowhere so copious and confidential a record of an actor's personal and professional experience. Mr. Macready died two years ago, at the age of eighty, and his last appearance in America had been in 1849, so that to the younger generations of the present time he is little more than an impressive name. But this thick volume will have the effect both of reviving the regret of all late-comers for lost opportunity, and of making the man, as he stands portrayed, interesting to those who have never seen the actor. In one way and another, though with very little method and often rather awkward art, what we have here is the elaborate portrait of a character. There is a good deal of evidence that Macready was a cold actor—according, at least, to the latest taste of the time; that he was stately, impressive, and accomplished, but mechanical, artificial, and stilted. The work is full of comments upon the plays and parts in which he performed, and from year to year there is constant mention of his playing "The Stranger"; but we do not remember a single note of disapproval of the false taste and false style of this now intolerable melodrama. If he were to reappear in life and play before us as he played in 1835, it is very possible that we might find him wanting in warmth, in nature, and in what is popularly termed magnetism. But there is no doubt that his acting would, in its way, seem very strong and individual; and of this strong, individual temperament these pages offer a vivid reflection. The character they reveal seems, at times, not especially sympathetic, and even scantily amiable; but, as one continues to read, one's kindness for it increases; and one lays down the book with the sense of having made the acquaintance of a man who on the whole was very much a man, and who had an ample share of honorable and elevated qualities.

Mr. Macready began in 1855 to write an account of his life for the use of

* 'Macready's Reminiscences, and Selections from his Diaries and Letters. Edited by Sir Frederick Pollock, Bart.' New York: Macmillan & Co. 1875.

his children. But he carried his narrative, which is copious and minute, no further than the year 1826—the time of the first of his three visits to America. In 1827, however, he began to keep a diary, and continued the practice for the rest of his long life. The early entries are brief and scanty, but they expand as the years elapse, and at last are very agreeable reading. Like most men of his profession, Mr. Macready was rather fond of a large phraseology, and it is perhaps an advantage to the reader that he is not always really pretending to write. His jottings are often as explicit and leisurely as many people's finished periods. Sir Frederick Pollock is a very unobtrusive editor, but he has done all that was necessary. He has given us the long fragment of autobiography and, as a sequel, the whole mass of the author's diaries up to the time of his retirement from the stage—a period of twenty-four years. To these he has added a few letters, written from the country during Mr. Macready's last years, and throughout he has supplied the needful notes as to names, dates, and persons. The work, therefore, is modestly but sufficiently edited. The first thing in it that strikes us is that—strange as it may appear—Macready greatly disliked his profession. It offers the singular spectacle of a man acting, almost nightly, for forty years, and yet never loving and often hating what he was doing. Macready went upon the stage almost as a matter of course, his father being a country manager, and his patrimony nil. He remained upon it because he had a wife and many children to support; but his disgust with his career, prosperous and brilliant though it had been from the first, was at times so oppressive that at one moment he was on the point of quitting the stage, emigrating to America, and taking up his residence at Cambridge, Mass., to escape social expenditure and establish his children. We take it that, if we may make the distinction, his intellect was in his profession, and his heart out of it. He was as little as possible of a Bohemian—he was what is commonly called very much of a gentleman. There is a happy line about him in Tennyson's sonnet, read at the very brilliant dinner given him in London on his retirement from the stage:

"Farewell, Macready; moral, grave, sublime!"

How sublime he was we who did not see his *Lear*, his *Macbeth*, or his *Virginian* have no means of knowing, but he was evidently very moral and grave. He was devoutly religious, as his journal abundantly proves, and he was very fond, as we observe in the same record, of stoical Latin epigrams and invocations. Compared with most members of the theatrical profession, he was an accomplished scholar; he was zealous, conscientious, rigidly dutiful, decorous, conservative in his personal tastes and habits. He was never popular, we believe, with the members of his own profession, who thought him arrogant and unsocial, and for whom he fixed the standard, in every way, uncomfortably high. It was perhaps an irritating sense of all this that prompted an anonymous ruffian, while Mr. Macready was acting at Cincinnati in 1849, to protest by hurling upon the stage, from the gallery, the half of the raw carcass of a sheep; and it was certainly the same instinctive hostility of barbarism to culture that led Edwin Forrest to denounce his rival in a vulgar letter to the *London Times* as a "superannuated driveller," and to suffer his followers to organize the disgraceful scenes of the Astor-Place Riot. Of these scenes Macready's journal contains a very interesting account; a street-row in which seventeen persons were killed deserves a place in history. Macready was an unsparring critic of his own performance, and he is perpetually berating himself for falling below his ideal. His artistic conscience was evidently very serious and delicate. "My acting to-night was coarse and crude, no identification of myself with the scene, and, what increased my chagrin on the subject, some person in the pit gave frequent vent to indulgent and misplaced admiration. The consciousness of unmerited applause makes it quite painful and even humiliating to me." "I went," he elsewhere says, "to the theatre thinking first of my dress, and secondly of King John. I am ashamed, grieved, and distressed to acknowledge the truth. I acted disgracefully, worse than I have done for years; I shall shrink from looking into a newspaper to-morrow, for I deserve all that can be said in censure of me." "Acted with tolerable spirit," he writes in 1832, "to the worst benefit house I ever played before in London; but thank God for all he gives." When he has played well he commends himself as liberally, and he feels that the praise is deserved. "Acted *Macbeth* most nobly—never better." "Acted *Iago* with a vigor and discrimination that I have never surpassed, if ever equalled." "Acted *Brutus* as I never—no, never—acted it before, in regard to dignified familiarity of dialogue or enthusiastic inspiration of lofty purpose. The tenderness, the reluctance to deeds of violence, the instinctive abhorrence of tyranny, the open simplicity of heart and natural grandeur of soul, I never so perfectly, so consciously, portrayed before." Just after this (in 1851) he makes a note of his

last performance of *Hamlet*. "Acted *Hamlet*; certainly in a manner equal to any former performance of the part I have ever given, if not on the whole exceeding in power, consistency, grace, and general truth all I have ever achieved. . . . The character has been a sort of love with me. . . . Beautiful *Hamlet*, farewell, farewell!" We are struck in all this with the extreme variability of his performance to the actor's own sense—at least, when that sense is anything like as acute as Mr. Macready's. We go to the play one night and another, and on each occasion the *Hamlet* or the *Richard* seems to be putting forth all his energies. But from the standpoint of the "wings," apparently, this is quite otherwise, and the aspect of a particular part may shift, according to mood and circumstance, along every degree between the atrocious and sublime.

Both Mr. Macready's reminiscences and his diaries are filled with quotable matter of which, to our regret, we lack space to avail ourselves. He came into contact with most of the eminent men and women of his time, and lived on intimate terms with many of them. No actor since Garrick had so completely won a place in what is called society; and Macready had won it by his own strength and skill. There are innumerable memoranda of dinners at his own house during the last twenty years of his professional life, which, judging by the company assembled, must have been as agreeable as any then taking place. He had relations with all the eminent actors of the century, from Mrs. Siddons and Master Betty down to Mlle. Rachel and Miss Cushman. He played young Norval to Mrs. Siddons's Lady Randolph, and was called into the great actress's room after the play to receive some stately but most benignant and intelligent advice. His account of the scene suggests some trembling young aspirant admitted to a supernatural interview with the sacred Muse in person. He has a number of sketches of Edmund Kean, who, according to his account, played at times very badly; and also of the Kembles, whom he evidently disliked, and concerning whom we should say his testimony must be taken with allowance. Speaking afterwards (very intelligently) of Mlle. Rachel, he says that in many points she was inferior to Miss O'Neill—a statement that renews one's regrets at having been born too late to see this actress, concerning whose mastery of the pathetic contemporary evidence is so singularly unanimous. But there are some remarks in one of his letters late in life about Ristori which are strangely unappreciative, and which confirm one's impression that his own acting and the acting he admired had little of the natural, realistic quality that we admire so much nowadays. We get a sense, however, that, natural or not, the English stage in Macready's younger years was in some ways a more respectable institution than it is now. The number of provincial theatres was greater; small country-towns had frequent visitations of players; and the most accomplished actors did not think it beneath their dignity to play short or secondary parts. Macready, in the fulness of his younger reputation, played *Friar Lawrence*, *Prospero*, and *Joseph Surface*. Many of the older tragedies, which have quite passed out of the repertory, were then frequently performed. It may be that they would now be, in parts, too dull for the audience, but they would also be too difficult for the actors. Who is there now to serve in "King John" and in "Lear" with the Fool? The players of seventy years ago were stilted and declamatory; but we gather from the allusions of the time that the average actor, knowing his business, could acquit himself more honorably of a passage of tragic blank-verse, with its various inflections and cadences, than those of our own time. The absence of scenery and other aids to illusion laid greater responsibilities upon the actor; he had to act more, as it were. "She was a mighty pompous woman," we heard lately of a long-lived old gentleman, with a vivid memory, saying of Mrs. Siddons; and this, which in a certain sense implies blame, also implies praise—implies that she had authority, weight, and style—attributes in which Miss Clara Morris, for instance, is deficient. Macready, we imagine, was a trifle pompous; but if his acting was somewhat heavy, there was also weight in his character. He undertook the management of Covent Garden Theatre in 1837 with the explicit design of elevating and purifying the drama, and several of the most successful plays of our time—"Richelieu," "The Lady of Lyons," "Money"—were produced under his auspices.

But for information on this and other points connected with theatrical history we must refer the reader to the volume before us. Our own interest in it, we confess, has had less regard to its theatrical than to what we may call its psychological side. Macready, as a whole, strikes us as essentially histrionic. When he reads in a newspaper of the death of an American gentleman with whom he was apparently but slightly acquainted, he notes in his diary that he was "struck down with anguish." He was playing, in a manner, before himself. But there is something very fine in his combination of the dramatic temperament with a rigid conscience and a strenuous will.

RECENT NOVELS.*

MR. ANDREW JOHNSON will probably not be the only person who will experience the peculiar sensation, on looking through the pages of 'Alice Brand,' of seeing himself paraded in semi-fictional guise as a party to the "romance of the capital" there rehearsed, for the book has a slight historical bias, and the author is thus led to introduce persons who really exist, or have existed, under merely a slight veil of fiction. But the ex-President is the only one of those acting an important part who is brought before us without mask. To detect the identity of others the reader must refer to his memories of Washington society (if he have any), or else accept with a good grace the knowledge that he is looking at an historical picture, the figures in which have no distinguishable numerals over their heads, and to which there is no outline "key" provided. Of course, a story in which the actual inhabitants of a city and the airy creations of the author thus jostle each other, invites debate as to how far the novelist has a right to call for aid upon an element so liable to prove merely factitious as the presence of real people on the scene. There is something singularly pleasant in such blendings of the real and the imaginary when they are well managed; their appeal to the snobbishness of the average man is alluring; but it is also to be remarked how often and how easily the note jars instead of harmonizing. Thackeray succeeded with it in 'Esmond'; he almost failed with it in 'The Virginians.' Anthony Trollope has acquired considerable skill in shadowing real "swells" on his canvas, almost taking the reader's breath away by his ingenious management of royalty in a recent book; though, by altering names, he tones down the excitement to something like that which may be supposed to proceed from shooting, hanging, or burning prominent men in effigy.

But, however good the art, it must be confessed that it cannot reach any very high plane. Mr. Riddle is not wholly wanton in his use of this means. The notoriety which newspapers now give even to the interior intricacies of public men's lives must perhaps modify the practice of a novelist who enlists such men among his *dramatis personæ*, and, in this view, the ex-President may possibly be the property of Mr. Riddle or of any one else who chooses to seize upon him. For the rest, the author of 'Alice Brand' is very much in earnest about reproducing the life of a given place and period as it passed under his own eyes, and has, no doubt, done well to give us portraits instead of purely typical figures. We doubt his ability to convey a great deal by the latter means, for his hero and heroine are not very clearly defined, and we suspect that his persons are lifelike just in proportion as he sketched them from individuals before his mind at the time. The perspective and finish of the book, accordingly, are unsatisfactory; background and foreground are interchangeable at will; and the love-story of Colonel Mason and Ellen Berwick far outstrips in interest that of Frank and Alice. Mason's Congressional experiences give rise to some rather interesting passages, which, with the scenic and somewhat questionable glimpses of lobbying and pardon-broking operations, suggest regions of research from which a master might draw something worthy the pains. Mr. Riddle's use of such material is hap-hazard, however; he should study Bulwer's elaborate, almost valetudinarian, care in economizing similar matter. In his management of the legal manœuvres, too, on which the plot turns, he is much too technical. The style is often absurdly inflated, as when the notes of bluebirds are said to drop "like spangles from the buskins of God, still hovering, almost seen, over his new creation"; at other points it becomes vulgar and reckless, as when the author speaks of men "on the make" and a convention that "said its say, did its do," etc. The clumsiness of the *résumé*, in the last pages, of all that has happened since the date of the story to a number of public men who have nothing whatever to do with it, is almost incredible. But, with all its faults and its weakness, 'Alice Brand' has vigor in it; the study of the mischievous, honest, impetuous American youth, Grayson Vane, is not bad; and among American novels which make a point of being watermarked with their nationality, it will stand above the average.

We don't know what the anonymous author of 'The Rainbow Creed' set out to do when he wrote the book that bears this name; but it seems safe to assume that, whatever it was, he did not succeed in doing it. In any case, it is quite certain that he has not written a novel; for though it is

called a "story of the times," it is not a work of the imagination at all, and the pseudo-fictional air assumed by it is of the kind long since grown familiar as a means of advertising personal opinions. In this case, the opinions are advanced under cover of a supposititious divinity student, one Malcolm Lawson, who saves the life of a wealthy orthodox merchant, and is promised the hand of the latter's daughter provided he will stick to the creed of the college where he is studying. The young man, however, discovered "that he was only a Christian, and that if he intended to devote himself to the improvement of his race it might be necessary to become a Liberal." The rest of the book, consequently, is consumed in the statement of the intellectual contortions which he passed through. He became much too clever at talking about the Universal and the Particular, the Highest Reason and the Holy Spirit, his own Egotism, which must have "justice" done to it, and many other matters (chiefly elevated to the plane of a mystic philosophy by the use of capital letters)—so that there is small doubt in our own mind that he could have even written a book equal to 'The Rainbow Creed'—and was ultimately expelled from the college. Now came the tussle with his prospective father-in-law, who, in spite of his horror at Malcolm's heresy, admired the young man's boldness and sincerity, which he had the sagacity to deserv underneath all his ravings of mystical, radical, religious slang. They couldn't agree, however, and Malcolm was about to leave the house and abandon his *fiancée* for the time being, when she opportunely burst a blood-vessel, and the disaster brought them all to their senses—Malcolm at once entering "the church," under the auspices of several ministers of a liberal turn of mind whose existence had not been up to that moment even hinted at by the author. We confess that he shows great presence of mind in remembering the blood-vessel and the liberal clergymen just at this juncture; but if he had had the good fortune to think of them a little earlier—in the opening pages, for example—a great deal of useless trouble would have been saved both to the author and those who may chance to become his readers. It will be readily seen from the following passage that the author understands how to mingle the profundities of consciousness with superficial description so that neither shall be too clear:

"The moonlight yields to the gas-glare of the Christian sociable, and the bones gleam in the gorgeous apparel of the ball; for Dr. Lullaby is the ghostly pastor of the ghosts. Hark! the necropolitan festivity begins with a prayer, and a thousand spectral fans pat responsive to its exquisite rhythm. . . . Yet I marvel still more as the votaries of Fashion interblend, and lose each his personality in confused circles of satin and silk, of velvet and coral, of diamond and flounce, the green interblending with the gold, the drab with the purple, and the pink with the pale—a perfect chaos of broken rainbows in softest collision: children of Death playing with peacocks' feathers on their father's hell-lit tombs; a Catherine-wheel revolving furiously on the cross of Christ or on the edge of the gallows."

We recognize a kind of energy here and elsewhere in the book, and enough of it, perhaps, to counterbalance a good deal of symbolic drivelling and convince the author's own partisans of the soundness of his views—if it could be ascertained that he had any. But the only theory we can discover in it is that "the mind must be occupied; and although our writing and our speech may not amount to more than a rope of sand, the honest employment of its energies to the repression of its ever-surging recklessness . . . is our salvation." The writer has occupied his mind with a vengeance, and we conclude that his "salvation" is from the insanity likely to ensue upon the retention in the mind of such trash as is here shot into the market. It might be entertaining to carry out a suggestion afforded by this statement of the case, and consider systematically the probable preventive influence upon mental disorder exercised by the increase of enthusiastic or benevolent publishers and modern improvements in the printing-press.

We turn with relief from this anonymous exhalation to a story so innocuous and even attractive in its way as Miss Fraser-Tytler's 'Mistress Judith.' The English reviewers, who always seem to carry about with them some reference to standard specimens, arranged in a slip-knot to close at random upon the first object that comes to hand, harnessed Thomas Hardy a short time ago to George Eliot, and they have now connected 'Mistress Judith' with 'Sylvia's Lovers,' by Mrs. Gaskell. Its kinship with Mr. Hardy's books is much more obvious. There is none of the stern, set earnestness of Mrs. Gaskell here, and form, method, and coloring all suggest the author of 'Under the Greenwood Tree' very directly, though Miss Fraser-Tytler is superior to her model in simplicity of diction. The book offers a curious instance, nevertheless, of the promptitude with which a genuine hand-made product will be imitated by means of ingenious machinery. Mr. Hardy's books, counting in certain weaknesses of construction and over-labored modes of expression, have a primitive artistic char-

* 'Alice Brand. A Romance of the Capital. By A. G. Riddle, author of 'Bart Ridgely,' 'The Portrait,' etc.' New York: D. Appleton & Co. 1875.
'The Rainbow Creed. A Story of the Times.' Boston: Wm. F. Gill & Co. 1875.

'Mistress Judith. A Cambridgeshire Story. By C. C. Fraser-Tytler, author of 'Jasmine Leigh,' etc.' New York: Henry Holt & Co. 1875.

'Katerfelto. A Story of Exmoor. By G. J. Whyte-Melville. With Illustrations by Col. H. Hope Crookcote, C.B.' London: Chapman & Hall; New York: Scribner, Welford & Armstrong. 1875.

'For the King's Dues. By Agnes Macdonell, author of 'Martin's Vineyard.' New York: Macmillan & Co.

acter that makes them unique. Miss Tytler, with a keenness quite commercial, at once supplies the market with a ware having somewhat the same effect and produced at much less cost. We have sometimes thought that in the history of English fiction the "period of the moulds" has come at last, and this would seem to be a case in point. 'Mistress Judith' is a pretty porcelain vase decorated with "landscape and figures." Beyond its cheapening effect, there is no harm whatever about it, and much that is good. It is a bright and healthy little book, calling for a momentary use of cambric, possibly, in its sad catastrophe, but the reading of which is no more vexatious than the inhaling of an April day. This, as novels go, is saying a good deal. If we remember aright, Miss Tytler began her literary career some five or six years since with a little volume called 'Sweet Violet, and Other Stories,' and as we now recall the gloved and perfumed daintiness of those stories, we judge her to have made good use of the intervening period. Judith, Master Hurst and his wife, and the Parson are neatly characterized with something of the acuteness of silhouettes, but more color; and though the two young men of the tale are little better than wig-blocks, we are content to take the whole as it stands on the strength of its amateurish good faith.

Mr. Whyte-Melville, we see, retains a zest for the game he has practised for so many years. The cards, to be sure, are a trifle worn by the thumb, but there is always a fresh interest in seeing what will turn up next; and it is really delightful to observe the dealer's interest in the process. We who have seen it done before, however, are not greatly startled when we discover a fine horse, called "Katerfelto," after a certain charlatan who owned him, in the hands of the hero John Garnet, and that this horse is going to be a chief trump-card. Nor would it be possible for us after this not to feel grossly defrauded if the author had denied us a highway robbery; for the time of the story is the early part of George the Third's reign, and improbability could not be pleaded. But we are treated to the robbery, to gipsy love and revenge, and a thrilling episodic stag-hunt, and out of it all comes pardon at last, return of the outlawed hero, and happy marriage. The story is illustrated with drawings by one Colonel Crealocke, which remind us that there was once a young artist called Olive Newcome. Both text and pictures somehow have a not unpleasant atmosphere of the smoking-room in a club somewhere on St. James Street, say; and we believe they will be very acceptable to any one who has a wet day in the country and a few cigars at his disposal. For ourselves, in reading 'Katerfelto' we have experienced a certain conservative quiescence, assisted by Whyte-Melville's evident solid old-fashioned conviction that there can no more be two ways of writing a good novel than of brewing a good whiskey-punch.

The most observable point of merit in 'For the King's Dues' is its picturesqueness. Mr. Tilton says he remembers in pictures, and Mrs. Maedonell—if we may take the liberty of drawing even so remote an analogy between anybody and that celebrated plaintiff—appears to compose in pictures. The story opens with a scene which is really but a little thing, and yet it seizes the eye and memory like one of Fortuny's rough sketches. It describes Miss Amice Blunt, a young lady of the year 1782, sitting among the rocks on the coast of Sark, dressed in a pink paduasoy and (probably) smuggled lace, too absorbed in reading that new work, 'The Vicar of Wakefield,' to observe the waves closing in around her. The thread of the story is not remarkably strong, though well enough for its purpose, but it is strung throughout with such taking scenes as this. A novel about the island of Sark at this date is novel indeed, and therefore fresh and diverting reading; but the *motif*—which is the interest of certain well-born people in the fortunes of certain peasants—is of well-known and perfectly respectable standing, just as is the visiting of the poor by charitable ladies. The Baroness Tautpneus alone nearly succeeded in exhausting the subject in her novel, 'Quits.' Although it does not strain the vision to see the end of the plot of the Sark story some time before it is reached, yet its unravelling is so rapid and vivacious that a sufficient sense of surprise is conveyed. The story is of course a romance, though founded on facts (concerning smuggling between France and England, with the Channel Islands as an entrepôt) which are historical; but, as a romance, it leaves a wholesome taste in the mouth, being unsensational, refined, and high-toned.

An Essay on the Madonna in Christian Art. By Henry Martin Ladd, of the Class of 1875, in the Theological Department of Yale College. (New Haven. 1875. 8vo, pp. 93.)—It appears from the notes preliminary to this essay that a body called the "Kingsley Trust Association" founded a year or two since an annual prize at Yale College of \$250, to be awarded

for an English essay, written by a member of any department of the College who may be pursuing a regular course for a degree. The prize is named, awkwardly enough, "The John A. Porter University Prize." The subject is to be chosen by the trustees of the Kingsley Trust Association, and the prize is to be awarded by three judges, two appointed by the president of the College and one by the trustees of the Association. Two subjects (at least) were given out last year—one, that of the essay before us, the other, "The Causes of Cromwell's Failure." How many competitors there were for the prize does not appear. Two of the judges agreed in awarding the prize to Mr. Ladd, and the Kingsley Trust Association have authorized the publication of his essay "in the hope that the interests of literature in the University will thereby be promoted." These circumstances give a certain importance to the performance. We have here not only a work which has been esteemed by representatives of Yale College as deserving a large pecuniary reward, but the publication of which they hope may promote the interests of literature.

In the first place, we must remark that the selection of subjects, judging by the two already mentioned, seems eminently unsuitable. To propose to young men to write on "The Failure of Cromwell" is to assume what most students of history would deny. To propose to an American student to write on "The Madonna of Christian Art" is to offer him a subject on which, for him, original investigation or thought is impossible, and which he must, from the nature of the case, treat at second or third hand. In writing upon it he is likely to be tempted into two of the worst faults of imperfect culture, viz., unsupported and loose assertion and vague sentiment. We could excuse these faults, which are palpable enough in the essay before us, on the ground of the poor selection of the subject, but it exhibits other and still graver defects for which no such excuse can be admitted.

The author puts in front of his essay a list of the authorities "consulted, and in some cases freely quoted," and it appears that in writing on a subject which required, for anything like a proper treatment of it, recourse to German and French authorities, the only works by foreign authors he has made use of are the translations of such familiar books as Kugler's and Lübke's histories, and Taine's 'Art in the Netherlands.' For all that his essay shows, even these might have been omitted without harm. All his other authorities are of the commonest and most accessible sort—Ruskin, Mrs. Jameson, Hamerton, Hazlitt, Jarves, and, of all men, Charles Lamb! Such a list should have indicated to the judges that the essay was not likely to deserve a prize. And this prepossession ought to have been confirmed by its contents. It opens with confused thought concerning the relations of art and religion, and then goes on to discourse of the phases of Christian art in a way that shows the writer's want of knowledge of general history, as well as of that of his special topic. Already on page 2 occurs a statement which we should conceive must have given pause even to the most lenient of judges. The writer, speaking of the Madonna, says: "She was a Christian goddess, embodying the beauty, maternity, and chastity of the Pagan Venus, Horus, and Diana." Our astonishment over this incredible assertion is redoubled when, on p. 83 of this essay, we come again on the same statement, "In her were combined the several Pagan conceptions of Venus, Horus, and Diana"! The simplicity of such a show of ignorance under the pretence of learning would awaken a feeble compassion, were it not that Mrs. Jameson, with whose 'Legends of the Madonna' the author has a suspicious familiarity, might have saved him from this discreditable and mortifying blunder. She says ('Legends of the Madonna,' Introduction, p. xxii.): "It is worth remarking that Cyril, who was so influential in fixing the orthodox group, had passed the greater part of his life in Egypt, and must have been familiar with the Egyptian type of Isis nursing Horus." But Mr. Ladd's obligations to Mrs. Jameson were so numerous that he may have hesitated to burden himself with another. He informs his readers at the outset, as we have seen, that he has "in some instances freely quoted" his authorities. An unsuspecting reader would take it for granted that in such instances quotation marks would be used, but this is not Mr. Ladd's practice. For instance, he devotes several pages (pp. 53-56) to what he calls "the progressive treatment of the Madonna as a subject of Christian art." These pages are a mere abridgment of pp. xxi. to xxxi. of Mrs. Jameson's Introduction, her language being often partially retained, but given in such a way as to remind one of Coleridge's definition of a certain class of readers who absorb what they read as a sponge does water, and give it out again, as a sponge does, much as they took it in, only a little dirtied. There is no specific acknowledgment in these pages of direct borrowing; no reference whatever to Mrs. Jameson; no use of quotation marks when her words are cited. In a similar way, pp. 82 and 83 and 84 are wholesale conveyances

from the same worthy writer. A single instance will show the sort of work our sciolist has made of her good English :

Mrs. Jameson wrote :
"It is curious to observe, as the worship of the Virgin-mother expanded and gathered to itself the relics of many an ancient faith," etc., Introduction, p. xx.

Mr. Ladd writes :
"Little by little, as the worship of the Virgin expanded and grew, it gathered to itself the flower and the fruit of many an ancient faith," p. 83.

The opinions advanced in the essay are worthy of the scholarship shown in it. The subject is not grasped, and is treated without intelligence. Mistakes of fact are not infrequent. Altogether, it is a pity that this worthless production should have appeared under university auspices.

Materials and Models for Latin Prose Composition. By J. Y. Sargent, M.A., Fellow and Tutor of Magdalen College, Oxford, and T. F. Dallin, M.A., Tutor, late Fellow, of Queen's College, Oxford. Second edition. (London, Oxford, and Cambridge : Rivingtons. 1875. Pp. xliii. and 362.)—*Parallel Extracts*, arranged for Translation into English and Latin, with Notes on Idioms. By J. E. Nixon, M.A., Fellow of King's College, Cambridge, Classical Lecturer, King's College, London. Part I. Historical and Epistolary. (London and New York : Macmillan. 1874.)—The first-named book has passed to a second edition since 1870. The material is taken from standard modern authors, and arranged in five sections, as follows : Historical, Characters, Oratorical, Philosophical, and Epistolary. With a very proper wish to combine translation into Latin with reading Latin, the editors have appended to each English piece references to analogous or similar passages in classical authors of approved merit. The student is thus furnished with a model in his attempt to render them into Latin. The pieces set for translation are short, which is a good thing ; and diversified in kind and style, which is another good thing. The 'Materials and Models' are admirably adapted either for college instruction or advanced private study. We hope that a professional man may here and there be found who will take it up after his day's work and try his hand at a few sentences. Of the second and much smaller book, the 'Parallel Extracts,' a good word may also be said. The classification of extracts is much the same with that in the 'Materials and Models,' but in this part—Part I.—only historical and epistolary passages are given. On every left page there is a Latin extract, on the right page an analogous English extract. There are some very useful Notes on Idioms at the beginning, which are constantly referred to in the extracts. This book is well suited for a younger class of learners. Perhaps there is a little too much of Pliny in the epistolary part.

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Fine Arts.

FIFTIETH EXHIBITION OF THE ACADEMY OF DESIGN.

III.

THE painters in miniature scale have always enjoyed in our exhibitions the conspicuousness of small numbers and marked merit ; the subject in Louis XVI. costume, by Mr. Knight, to balance the subject in Louis XIII. costume, by Mr. Beaufain Irving, on the other side of the doorway, has been as much as our lovers of the art of Pécus and Plassan could usually find to sharpen their eyesight upon. This year Mr. Irving is alone in his specialty, unless we may consider Mr. Guy as a supporter. Mr. Irving's subject of a dozen figures, representing "Cardinal Wolsey and Friends" (272), is one of the most attractive pictures in the east room ; it is, for that matter, the most considerable specimen of art made microscopic

that we remember to have been produced in this country. The splendor in which the Cardinal is known to have lived is revived in the scene with every ingenuity of representation and suggestion ; the picture is a mass of bric-à-brac, while the light dying over the lofty walls of the banquet-room is graduated with as much care as Mr. Church is used to employ in his skies. The guests are placed in a great variety of expressive attitudes, while each is an art-Crichton, finished to the finger-nail ; it must be confessed, however, that they all have the fixed and prepared look which almost inevitably accompanies this sort of painting, and that their individual perfection is a little wearisome. The countenance of Wolsey, too, is expressionless, and one feels sure that the mundane prelate would have listened to the songs of his favorite jester with rather more unctious in his face. It is so rare and encouraging, however, to see a figure-picture in which no part has been slighted, that we are fain to congratulate the author of this painstaking and thorough piece of work ; his great merit seems to be that he never loses breadth of effect while attending to detail, and this, his most ambitious picture, is composed in one sweeping unity of light and shadow, to which all considerations are subordinate. A group called "Vespers," by Mr. Maynard (260), attracts at first sight by its quaintness of character, but inspection proves that the drawing is feeble, and the quaintness an excuse for loose and fumbling study ; it must be classed with the "Antwerp Market-Scene" (146) of Mr. Meeks, as a good subject vulgarized by halting execution. Mr. Wilmarth's single contribution, showing a charitable fellow putting a litter of puppies to bed in a disused oven while the parent dog steals his dinner (329), exhibits the most careful study from nature, with an arm and hand quite real in their action and saliency ; he has not thought it worth while, however, to give character to the cranium of his figure, whose back only is seen ; the picture is therefore to all intents and purposes headless, a fault not easily pardonable when there is but a solitary character on the scene. A similar jest is attempted by Mr. C. S. Reinhart in "Caught Napping" (24), where a schoolmaster while lapped in Elysium is robbed of his luncheon by the boys ; the character of the teacher, one of the hard autocratic kind, and of the kind, too, that, being bred to the plough, always do nod themselves into helplessness the moment they relax, is very perfectly seized. Of all the works in which the endeavor is comic, however, we think Mr. James's "Amateur" (371) the most successful ; there is real humor in this dry and determined soubrette, who strains her lean arms and inflates her tough, bladdery cheek as she blows into the trumpet she has picked up, while her eyes are almost flying out of her head with the whole-souled effort. The entire pose shows the ardor and luxury of stolen pleasure, the conscientious endeavor to get all the good possible out of a surreptitious liberty, enhanced by the feeling that the next moment may probably bring discovery and disgrace. This picture is most carefully touched ; the costume cunningly betrays the effort of the lungs which modifies the whole abdomen ; the carpet and accessories are minutely painted, and the embossed leather-work on the wall (whose pattern was stamped with a button in the wet paint, if we mistake not, that there might be no error in its regularity) is realistic and picturesque.

The exhibition shows works of another kind of humor, however, which, while we have no quarrel with the painters who produce them, might, in our opinion, be excluded by the committee with a confident expectation of support from all who have the interests of art in consideration. The example of Landseer, who painted a great number of animal-pictures showing human emotion, was always felt to be a perilous one, and the objections made in the cause of art were presently abetted by the ennui which this class of pictures was found at length to produce. It is a string which a very little scraping will attenuate. There are American proficient in this sort of fun who are so certain of a generous share of praise from whole crowds of good fellows seldom seen at art-exhibitions, that we think they might rest satisfied with these successes, without emulating the laurels offered by academic displays. The art that is always grinning through a horse-collar is very frank and harmless, but it seems to require the freedom of the open air, of the country store, or of the city refreshment-room, for its untrammelled display. Whether that be so or not, the pictures of this kind at the exhibition are such, in our opinion, as might have been safely declined, without loss of dignity, by the committee on admissions. One of them is an entirely reprehensible allusion to troubles that are just now lacerating a great many hearts in the community ; the tantalizing dog that holds the bones under his paw, the dog that gazes with large eyes of unassuageable melancholy upon the ruins of his home and board, and the dog, with plenty of fight in him, that confronts the two, may all be very apposite and expressive in a way ; but the wit is stable wit, and has no place whatever in an exhibition of fine arts. Another picture, very much elaborated, shows a parrot plucked of its feathers, and swearing in an orotund manner with

all the energy of its thick black tongue. The execution of this and other paintings by the artist is not of a kind to bring him within the precincts of an academy; his carefulness is not art at all, but smoothness; his animal-study is halting in the extreme; as works of painting his productions would never attract the least attention. It is only for their supposed Hogarthian quality that they are admitted, and this quality, divorced from the ability to paint, is a merit suitable for bar-rooms and not for picture-exhibitions.

There is even a lower class of pictorial jests admitted, and very readily sold, whose presence can only surprise the judicious eye; the examples are water-color sketches, in which large-eyed and cadaverous birds, or skeletons, or acrobatic rabbits, are the figures. They are not pictures in any technical sense; they are not in the least funny; and although they are now always stopped in that limbo of formless art called the corridor, we think a more exacting standard will soon stop them a few feet farther out.

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| Total amount of Marine Premiums, | \$8,945,344 40 |

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| | |
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| Real Estate and Bonds and Mortgages, | 507,000 00 |
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| Cash in Bank, | 266,192 54 |

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Macready, as a scholar and thinker, had points of contact with the best men of the century. Tennyson in his sonnet ranks him with those "who made a nation purer through their art." He must have been a good listener; for we have him now pulling a boat on Rydal water, while Wordsworth holds his attention "with his remarks on the beauty of the evening and scenery"; now taking a morning walk with Bulwer through the park at Knebworth, "discussing on religion, the immortality of the soul," and such considerable themes.

It is proper to observe the shade of character in Macready which led him to attach himself to a certain set among his contemporaries which was not the set characterized by the greatest subtlety of genius. It was the Bulwer, and Dickens, and Foster, and MacLise clique with whom he was perpetually in contact, rather than the order of minds of whom Thackeray is the type. Still, Tennyson sent his grave Miltonic sonnet to the grand banquet given on his retirement, where also Thackeray gave the toast to Mrs. Macready; Browning was for a long time his habitual visitor; Carlyle called too, inveighing "against railroads, Sunday restrictions, almost everything," and left a 'Latter-day Pamphlet,' with a certain eulogium on Macready expunged, lest he "should not like it." Macready once called one of Ruskin's books "charming" to the latter's face, while ignorant of his presence, and was forthwith introduced to his friendship. Landor confided to him that he had not the constructive faculty, though he "could set persons talking"; Miss Martineau got him to plant two oaks at Foxbow, and conducted him about the region with "firm and almost manly strides."

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